

UNISON 2025 AGM NEWSLETTER

ULSTER UNIVERSITY BRANCH

Ulster University Branch AGM 2025

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 2025

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 2025

Belfast Site AGM

Thursday 27th March

lower ground block BC @ 9.15am

Coleraine site AGM

**Thursday 27th March @ 10.30am
room -H215**

Magee site AGM

**Friday 28th March @ 9.30am Room
room - MD021**

Branch News

Following our successful negotiations with the Ulster University in 2023 our members in the outsourced contracts, the majority of our membership, received the 2024 Real Living Wage of £12 per hour. The increase applied to staff in cleaning, security, portering and catering employed by two private contractors: Bidvest Noonan and Compass.

We were also successful in getting the Real Living Wage written into all contract documents with the companies which means that the private contractors must adhere to the Real Living Wage rises each year. In December 2024 the lowest paid members received the new rate of £12.60 per hour – a major success by UNISON in raising pay rates for the members.

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

Branch Merger Ulster University Branch

On 1st January 2025 the two Ulster University branches, UU J'town/Belfast and UU Coleraine/Magee, merged into one single Ulster University branch which will cover the four campuses of Coleraine, Magee, Belfast and Jordanstown. The merger of the 2 branches has enabled us to have one single, stronger branch. The one branch will cover all the same employers: Bidvest Noonan, Compass and the Ulster University itself. The branch committee, including reps from Belfast, Coleraine and Magee, will meet both inperson and online every month throughout 2025 with the important members meetings in March 2025 at the AGM's.

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



Check out the full list of over 500 UNISON College courses at this URL: bit.ly/2KzKJXA

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/>



THOMPSONS
SOLICITORS

Receive free legal advice and support on non employment matters from Thompsons, our specialist employment 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 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;
- Supported members through the redundancy process. Sadly this meant the loss of one of our long standing committee members and branch treasurer Ellen Tierney who will be sadly missed by the branch
- 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 Self Organised Groups

Equality is at the heart of UNISON. We challenge discrimination and win equality in the workplace and beyond. Our equality work includes groups for members who experience particular types of prejudice and discrimination. These groups meet locally to discuss, campaign and organise around specific issues that affect them.

If you are interested in getting involved in one of our groups please email the relevant person below for more information.

Women's Committee - d.mccusker@unison.co.uk
 Young Members aged 30 and under - c.bolt@unison.co.uk
 LGBT+ Group - n.robinson@unison.co.uk
 Black and Migrant workers - n.donnelly@unison.co.uk
 Retired Members - e.robinson@unison.co.uk

Branch Contacts

Belfast University based
 Joint Branch Secretary - Ken Newberry
 07749979944

Coleraine University based
 Joint Branch Secretary - Sara Wilson
 07749979944

Regional Organiser
 Nuala Conlon - 07879641742 n.conlon@unison.co.uk

Area Organisers
 Claire Bolt - c.bolt@unison.co.uk
 Noreen Robinson- n.robinson@unison.co.uk



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