

**Migrant Members’ Annual Conference 2024**

**Thursday 28 November**

**Nominations for the**

**Migrant Members’ Standing Committee**

**Extract from Standing Orders relating to nominations**

Nominations submitted by branches/local associations must have been approved either by a quorate branch meeting, or by a properly constituted meeting of members from the relevant constituent group, or by a quorate branch committee meeting. The secretary of the branch/local association will confirm that nominations submitted have received such approval.

1.7 Elections The election of standing committee members will be determined by secret ballot of all voting delegates present during the relevant annual equality conferences. Voting will be in a single ballot conducted by single transferable vote. Should there be a casual vacancy or an unfilled vacancy at the time of the annual conference it will be filled by the candidate with the next highest number of votes after members have been elected to the full-term vacancies.

1.8 Co-options. The standing committees will have the power to co-opt members where an insufficient number of nominations have been made to the committee at any annual conference, or in the case of a casual vacancy arising between annual conferences. Members co-opted must fulfil the criteria for eligibility outlined in paragraph 1.4 above. Co-options will only occur in these circumstances and will cease at the annual conference following co-option when the vacancy can be filled through the process of election. When co-opting, standing committees (other than the MMC) shall take gender balance into account.

**Vacancies to which nominations are sought**

* **Five vacancies for a term of two years**
* **Five vacancies for a term of one year**

and the following 6 nominations have been submitted:

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| --- | --- |
| **Nominee** | **College / University** |
| Gertjan Lucas | University of Nottingham |
| Penny Oderberg | The Open University |
| Daniel Keeler | Canterbury Christ Church University |
| Michael Carley | University of Bath |
| Maha Rafi Atal | University of Glasgow |
| Minjie Cai | University of Birmingham |

**Name**  **Gertjan Lucas**

**Branch University of Nottingham**

**Word Count 62**

I have served as an Equality Officer at the University of Nottingham branch since summer 2021 and on the Migrant Members’ Standing Committee since January 2023. At both levels I have actively and diligently advocated for our migrant

members. In the current political climate this work is more important than even so I would appreciate the opportunity to continue ongoing MMSC work.

**Name Penny Oderberg**

**Branch The Open University**

**Word Count 109**

I have been a UCU member for over 20 years and I am currently a member of the Executive committee and also the AL reps committee at the Open University. Being a migrant myself, I recognise the challenges that migrant staff often face in the workplace but also more widely such as the recent attacks from the far right. I am currently a member of the UCU Migrant’s Members’ Standing Committee, and I wish to continue this important work of promoting the rights of our migrant members.

**Name Daniel Keeler**

**Branch Canterbury Christ Church University**

**Word Count 144**

I believe my involvement with UCU’s MMSC to date has substantially benefited me, as well as hopefully the MMSC itself, and my local UCU branch. I believe it is enormously important to maintain as diverse representation as possible, and the intersections of our identities equip us both to extend support to others, and indeed utilise such ourselves. My particular interests revolve around how the concept of ‘migrants’ is constructed in contrast to ‘immigrants’ or ‘expats’, and how these relate to race and class. I am also interested in - and believe I offer significant insight into - the intersections of neurodiversity, gender and LGBT+ issues, and minority religious perspectives, as well as Marxist class consciousness and internationalist solidarity. I would be very pleased to continue as a member of UCU’s MMSC, because we need all our enthusiasm, all our intelligence, and all our strength.

**Name**  **Michael Carley**

**Branch** **University of Bath**

**Word Count** **120**

In UCU, I have served as a branch officer, regional chair, and NEC member at various times in the past. At present I am the Health and Safety officer for University of Bath UCU. On migrant issues, I drafted and moved the 2016 Congress motion which led to the first immigration-related legal advice service for UCU members, and I have served on the Migrant Members Standing Committee for the last year. My interest in serving on the MMSC is ensuring the full support of the union is available to migrant members, without requiring them to perform the role of the "model immigrant", the subject of the first motion passed by the first Migrant Members Conference in 2020, which I moved.

**Name**   **Maha Rafi Atal**

**Branch** **University of Glasgow**

**Word Count** **120**

I have served on the MMSC since December 2022, during which time I have played a leading role in organizing support for migrant staff and students during the 2023 marking and assessment boycott, including updates to the national legal guidance for migrant members and a UCU intervention to secure visa extensions from the Home Office for international students awaiting marks. In addition, I have also represented UCU on a trade union and charity consortium supporting migrant workers. I have particular interest in improving UCU legal support and legal advice to migrant members and mobilizing UCU to advocate for changes to the legal regime for migration in the UK writ large.

**Name Minjie Cai**

**Branch University of Birmingham**

**Word Count 116**

Equality issues, particularly those that concerns class, gender and race, in the workplace and the labour market, underpins my academic research and teaching, and activism. I am currently the Migrant Officer at the University of Birmingham branch (from August 2024) and previously the Equality Officer at the University of Greenwich (until January 2024). I was also a member of the Migrant Members’ Standing Committee (from November 2023). I would like to continue serving on the Committee so to campaign for better policies to improve the experiences and rights of migrant workers at the Higher Education, specifically in terms of access to equal opportunities, employment contracts, workload and pay, earning thresholds for UK visas, and visa sponsorship.