



Preparing for the marking & assessment boycott

Welcome

[https://www.ucu.org.
uk/MABoycottFAQs](https://www.ucu.org.uk/MABoycottFAQs)

Marking Boycott

Why





Marking & Assessment Boycott



How did we get here?

Via democratic process the ballot was won in October 2022, with a successful re-ballot won on 3rd April 23. Notice has been given to the employer and the MAB will start on 20th April

Why this action?

A marking boycott was included in the ballot as a part of potential ASOS. HEC members decided that the pressure of a MAB is needed to push the employers' side to resolve the dispute.

How long?

HEC did not decide an end date, so once it starts a MAB will continue until the dispute is resolved or the union calls it off.

What is a boycott

- A marking and assessment boycott covers all marking and assessment work that contributes to summative assessment decisions for students whether final (i.e. graduation/completion) or interim (i.e. progression decisions).
- Once the boycott is live, UCU members should stop all summative marking and associated assessment activities/duties.

What will members be doing

- Ceasing all summative marking and assessment in any form (writing, online, verbal, coursework, field work, exhibits, experiments, presentations etc.)
- Not covering assessment related work such as exam invigilation
- All undergraduate, sub-degree, and postgraduate work is covered – so that includes all taught postgraduate summative assessment; PhD final vivas, and MPhil to PhD progression/confirmation vivas/assessment
- No mark and park! - the point is to stop and slow down the processes
- Anything that contributes to a student's mark or progression. There is info about formative assessment on the FAQ pages.

Start a MAB committee - agile and able to respond swiftly. Co-op as needed.

How can you involve members

- Know where and who the members taking action are – mapping
- Conversations are powerful – talk to people about the expectation and the support they will need and can give. Build alliances.
- Keep people informed – use the materials provided
- Regular meeting e.g. Liverpool had online meetings every day to stay ahead of the curve and brief members taking action

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5yNG7Fwew8>

Local hardship funds for HPL's or PGRs who take part

Everyone needs to work together.

Create Solidarity

Get solidarity from the wider UCU branch structure

Students

Local politicians

Local trades council

Other influential groups – do a branch analysis

Clarity of message

Clear messaging – use the materials

To Members

To Non-members

To Students

To Parents

Localise the national materials

Relentless conversations

Talk to as many people in the workplace as possible about what is happening

Create the UCU vision for the sector

Recruit

Action is always a recruitment opportunity

The more members the greater the leverage

Share the legal advice and rebuttals from the UCU website to everyone (not just those taking action) at every opportunity – support those taking the action.

Challenges

Have rebuttals ready

Make sure all those involved know what to say when challenged

Have standard emails members can send and a reporting mechanism for challenges

Report any talk of deductions asap follow the guidance on the members area of the website

This is official action - UCU have informed you it is taking place

I am under no obligation to inform you in advance of my intentions regarding industrial action.

'I'm unable to attend this meeting / mark these scripts / invigilate this exam because I am taking part in UCU's lawful industrial action in the form of a marking and assessment boycott.

'I'm continuing to perform all my normal duties other than those affected by the marking and assessment boycott and any other lawful action short of strike /industrial action currently called by my union.'

Mapping is important as ever

Recruitment is important

Support those who are carrying out the boycott

Follow the advice on the website

If in doubt – talk to your regional office



5 REASONS TO JOIN YOUR COLLEAGUES IN UCU

- 1** We are taking action to **protect your pay, conditions, and pensions**
- 2** We are **saving jobs** by fighting redundancies and 'fire and rehire'
- 3** We are **fighting casualisation** and winning **secure contracts**
- 4** We are **fighting for equality** by challenging discrimination, harassment and pay gaps
- 5** We **protect each other** and you from **victimisation at work**

UCU RISING **UCU is RISING** Join the wave for us 



Activity

Discuss some of the potential challenges with the marking assessment boycott and note some potential solutions.