

# Training newsletter

AN INFORMATION BULLETIN FOR REPs

AUTUMN TERM 2016/17

Welcome to the new academic year!

The UCU Reps programme trained over 1000 reps again last year and it is thanks to our activists that the programme goes from strength to strength.

As I am sure many of you will know this government have imposed a 50% funding cut to trade union education for 16/17 with zero funding for 17/18. Clearly this has impacted greatly on trade union studies units around the country.

UCU's strategy for 16/17 is to maintain consistency of delivery to our reps and to support trade union studies centres within colleges.

It is essential that branch reps are trained for their roles, so please do take some time to see our current course list - <https://www.ucu.org.uk/training>

You can see the full programme by downloading the UCU 'Activists Education Guide' [https://www.ucu.org.uk/media/8255/Activist-Education-Guide-16--17/pdf/Activist\\_guide\\_Aug161.pdf](https://www.ucu.org.uk/media/8255/Activist-Education-Guide-16--17/pdf/Activist_guide_Aug161.pdf)

## Time off for training – info & FAQs

UCU reps are entitled to time off for training under the Trade union and Labour Regulations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (TULR(C)A 92). The Act affords Reps 'reasonable' time off to train in order to undertake their 'duties'.

If you are a new rep then you will need to find out if you have an agreement. The best way to do this is to speak to previous reps or your regional office.

To find out more go to <https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/4903/Facilities-and-time-off-for-UCU-reps>

To find out more about the role of the UCU Rep go to <https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/4898/An-overview-of-what-reps-do>

## Greener Jobs Alliance

The Greener Jobs Alliance (GJA) has been formed as a partnership body inclusive of trade unions, student organisations, campaigning groups and a policy think tank. It campaigns around the issue of jobs and the skills needed to transition to a low-carbon economy. The founding members of the GJA are the University and College Union, Trades Union Congress, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, National Union of Students, People & Planet, and the Institute of Public Policy Research.

### Find Out More

[http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/?page\\_id=29](http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/?page_id=29)

### Online Courses

Free online courses that you can study in your own time and at your own pace - [http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/?page\\_id=31](http://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/?page_id=31)

## Union Learning Reps (ULRs)

Union learning representatives (ULRs) are branch based representatives and are similar to health and safety representatives; but while health and safety representatives focus on health and safety issues, learning reps focus on members' personal and professional learning interests.

They offer assistance and expertise on including training and development in local collective bargaining agreements and can offer members individual advice and guidance on development issues.

ULRs have been instrumental in championing the importance of training and development. ULRs work very hard to boost the image and strengthen the organisation of their union within the workplace. They can help widen union membership across the board and in underrepresented groups.

If union members want to become ULRs, they should first discuss it with their local UCU branch, or their full-time officer. Then contact the UCU training team at [training@ucu.org.uk](mailto:training@ucu.org.uk) to discuss their training options.

For more information follow the link: <https://www.ucu.org.uk/ulr> or the Unionlearn website at <https://www.unionlearn.org.uk/union-learning-reps-ulrs>



### DID YOU KNOW?

That trade union members can get up to **10% discount** on certain courses at **Birkbeck University**.

**Wolverhampton University also offer 10% discount on tuition fees**

For more information go to the Unionlearn page and use the link to the universities fees page <https://www.unionlearn.org.uk/higher-education-discounts-trade-union-members>



### Unionlearn/TUC E-notes

A valuable free learning resource for all Reps

E-notes: a series of online training modules consisting of titles such as

- Domestic violence
- The sick note
- Facility time
- Equality law
- Bargaining for skills

Along with a whole host of other relevant material, e-notes are a handy way to stay up to date. E-notes could also be use as teaching tools for members.

To use e-notes, you need to register on the [TUC Education website](#).



Not a member yet?

Here's how to join: <http://join.ucu.org.uk>