

UCU ballot update: Possible industrial action

1 November 2019

UCU members striking

UCU ballot autumn 2019 - Ballot supports ASOS and full strike action

Dear students,

I am writing to let you know that the University & College Union (UCU), the main trade union which represents staff at the University of Reading, has recently balloted its members to seek support for industrial action. This relates to two separate disputes: the National Pay Bargaining process and the ongoing Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) pension scheme.

The ballot closed on Wednesday 30 October. The University of Reading UCU branch turnout was 55.41% (of 706 members eligible to vote, from our total staff population of 4,300), with the outcome that members supported Action Short of Strike (ASOS) and full strike action. We have not yet received formal notification from the UCU regarding the timing and nature of any proposed industrial action here at the University of Reading. The UCU are required to provide us with 14 days' notice.

I understand that you will be very concerned about the possible impact of this action on your studies. While we acknowledge the right of staff to undertake industrial action, it is also our responsibility to minimise the disruption to you. We have established reasonable and practicable mitigation measures in place from our experience of previous industrial action. Not all members of staff are members of the UCU, and not all UCU members would participate in this industrial action. As we have seen in the past, it is likely that impact would vary across Schools, Departments and Functions.

We will keep you updated as soon as further information becomes available. Please continue to check the Me@Reading student portal regularly for the latest information.

Kind regards,

Professor Gavin Brooks

Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Teaching & Learning