

SUPPORT OUR STRIKES NEXT WEEK

Fighting for your future

**Staff Unions are on strike Monday/
Tuesday 21st and 22nd November, and
Thursday/ Friday 24th and 25th November**

Next week - on **Monday and Tuesday 21st and 22nd November** members of the Unison Trade Union at GCU have been forced to go on strike to defend the living standards of the staff.

On **Thursday and Friday 24th and 25th November**, members of the EIS and UCU Trade Unions at GCU will likewise be on strike to defend the living standards of staff. This will be happening at every university throughout the UK.

Next week, lots of classes will be cancelled. The strike will affect your lectures, it will affect the Library, it will affect your labs, it will affect security, it will affect the cleaning. **It will affect every aspect of the university.**

We are doing this because we want the university to give decent conditions to its staff, so that it will continue to attract top class lecturers, library staff, professional and support staff - **everyone who helps you as part of our university community.**

Please consider working at home, and help us win this strike for YOUR FUTURES and our futures

WHAT IS A TRADE UNION?

A Trade Union is a voluntary organisation that members of staff can join, and who talk on their behalf to management. There are 5 different Trade Unions at GCU - covering the majority of staff. The decisions of the Trade Unions are taken at meetings of their members. Members of the campus trade unions will be striking at all 150 universities throughout the UK next week. All we are asking for, is that we are paid a decent wage.

DO STRIKERS GET PAID WHEN THEY STRIKE?

No. If a member of staff goes on strike the management refuses to pay them. It is not an easy thing to go on strike, as our families suffer, but staff feel there is no alternative, and we appreciate the support that students give staff when they are forced to take industrial action.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE STAFF WAGES WITHELD?

We demand that the money that the university does not pay to staff, is put into the local students' hardship fund. We appreciate that striking disrupts students but we are taking this action to help keep the university sector a place where staff want to work, and where they are paid fairly, and where students, once they graduate, may also want to work.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can ask that our university puts pressure on the UK universities committee that decides what staff are paid. This is called UCEA - the University and College Employers Association. They have the power to pay the staff a decent wage, and therefore get the strikes and industrial action called off.

To do that, you can contact the Principal of our university with a simple request that GCU should ask UCEA to pay staff the increase that they are requesting - (which is no more than the rate of inflation, plus 2%). Staff have lost wages equivalent to 25% since 2009 as pay increases have not kept up with inflation.

Please e-mail the Principal at principal@gcu.ac.uk, copying in Rob Woodward, the Chair of the GCU Court (rob.woodward@gcu.ac.uk). The GCU Court looks at the strategy of the University.

E-mailing will not get you into trouble - and will be very helpful to your staff.

Many thanks - on behalf of the Joint Trade Unions at GCU