



## Get active and campaigning in UNISON

**UNISON**  
*the public service union*

UNISON has a proud campaigning history and there's never been a more important time for our healthcare student members to help us continue that tradition.

Our public services, and your future jobs and pensions are being targeted by the Conservative government that is determined to make public sector workers and service users pay the price of bringing down the deficit.

UNISON believes that cutting back public service spending and putting our services in the hands of private companies through more privatisation puts all our communities at risk. We will

not sit back while societies are ripped apart and the vulnerable are tossed aside to pay for the ideology of the Conservative government. Every part of UNISON, including our healthcare student members, has a part to play in making politicians understand the damaging effect of their draconian policies on peoples' lives.

Your future is at stake – we need to take action to ensure that when you graduate there are public services that enable you to save, protect and enrich lives. Public services that are there for you when you need them. Jobs for you to go into and a career to look forward to.

# Getting involved is easy

UNISON is always campaigning so there is always something you can do.

## Pay not poverty

UNISON believes that being a healthcare student is tough. You work the same hours, take the same risks and are exposed to the same hazards as NHS staff when you are on placements. That's why UNISON has argued for some time that students should be employed and receive a salary; this continues to be our policy. However in the meantime, we want to secure a living bursary of £6,325 (£7,207 in London) a year for all of our hard working healthcare students.

## Safe staffing levels

Healthcare students should be supernumerary, but are often included in staffing numbers because of staff shortages. Staff shortages can also mean that healthcare students do not get the support or

supervision they require from qualified healthcare professionals, which can affect the quality and experience of their placement. UNISON ensures that employers do not exploit healthcare students by campaigning for safe staffing levels in all healthcare settings to ensure patient and staff safety.

## Bursary or bust

In England the Conservative government is to replace bursaries with tuition fees and student loans. UNISON is concerned that replacing the bursary with student loans would burden healthcare students with huge debts, just as they are about to start out in the world of work.

We believe that the serious level of debt healthcare students will face acts as a massive deterrent to healthcare students from poorer backgrounds from entering the healthcare professions altogether.

## Fighting cuts and privatisation in the NHS

UNISON is campaigning to protect public services from cuts and privatisation. The NHS that we know is under threat. The government wants to turn the NHS into a business where our taxes will increasingly pay for profit-driven companies to provide our healthcare. We must ensure that the NHS continues to be a public service that gives us quality services that are local, easy to access and free when we need them.

So, what are you waiting for? Get involved and make a difference.

### What you can do to start campaigning

- Join UNISON  
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- Join the UNISON Our NHS Our Future Facebook page:  
[facebook.com/ournhsourfuture](https://facebook.com/ournhsourfuture)
- Visit the UNISON web site [unison.org.uk](http://unison.org.uk)

### Three simple ways to join UNISON today and get essential cover wherever you work



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