

Welcome to the **UNISON student newsletter**, produced for all students, whatever your course and wherever you are studying. So, if you are returning to studying, or about to embark on a new career UNISON, the UK's leading trade union, will be with you every step of the way.

UNISON student

Summer 2016 unison.org.uk

Campaigning for you

UNISON is not just about providing you with essential cover wherever you work. We also campaign across a range of issues on behalf of our members in healthcare. Here are some current campaigns that will be of particular interest to our student members.

Funding for healthcare students

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 always been determined that students should be employed and receive a salary.

Until we achieve that goal though we want to secure a living bursary of £6,325 (£7,207 in London) a year for hard working healthcare students. UNISON is also opposed to proposals in England to remove the NHS bursary and replace it with a student loan – and we will be doing everything we can to stop that happening.

NMC revalidation

If you qualify as a nurse or midwife, you will be required to renew your registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) every three years using a new process called revalidation. UNISON has been involved in the development of the process, and has been seeking assurances that the costs associated with the new process



will not increase registration fees further. The union can help you with that revalidation process when you qualify so please make sure you stay with UNISON as a full member, once you've graduated.

NMC and HCPC registration fees

Once you qualify, you will have to register with the Nursing and Midwifery

Council (NMC) or the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) depending on your new profession. This will require you to pay an annual registration fee.

NMC and HCPC fees have risen dramatically in recent years and health pay hasn't kept up. UNISON will continue to oppose draconian fee increases and is campaigning for the introduction of legislation that would help to reduce registration fees. We also want the introduction of reduced registration fees for newly qualified professionals.

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 you require from qualified healthcare professionals. This can affect the quality and experience of your placement. UNISON is campaigning for safe staffing levels in all healthcare settings to ensure patient and staff safety and to make sure you are not exploited as a student on the ward.

Seven day services

The government has threatened to cut unsocial hours payments in the NHS to pay for their seven day services vision. Although UNISON supports seven day services, it should not be achieved at the expense of healthcare professionals. UNISON is campaigning to ensure that the seven day services provision is adequately funded, and does not cost NHS staff a penny.

Fighting cuts and privatisation in the NHS

UNISON is campaigning to protect public services from cuts and privatisation.

The NHS 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 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.

Success stories

UNISON is the biggest union in healthcare and we are very good at looking after the interests of our members. This can be illustrated by a look at some of our recent successful campaigns that will affect you both as a student and when you qualify.

NHS pay

In 2014, the government decided not to implement the pay rise recommended by the independent pay review body. A successful campaign led by UNISON forced the government to negotiate with the trade unions. These negotiations resulted in an improved pay offer for NHS staff in England, Scotland and Wales. The deal ensured that the majority of staff, especially the lowest paid, would get a consolidated pay rise of 1% or more in 2015.



Maternity and paternity rights

Clare Fletcher, a UNISON member, was told she would be denied maternity pay because she was only a student midwife. UNISON demanded that Clare and other students be repaid bursary payments lost during maternity leave. An employment appeals tribunal ruled in favour of the students and affirmed that they worked in the same environment, put in the same hours and undertook the same duties as qualified staff. The ruling, secured by UNISON, continues to benefit thousands of healthcare students.

UNISON in partnership

UNISON works closely with other organisations to provide a range of support and benefits for our student members.

UNISON book club - a partnership with Oxford University Press (OUP)

There will be some books you glance at but some you will use throughout your career. UNISON has developed a partnership with Oxford University Press and as a UNISON member you can get up to 20% discount off hundreds of OUP publications.

Check out their catalogue and find out how to order at www.oup.com/uk/sale/unison

If you want to find out more about the benefits of being a UNISON member go to our website at www.unison.org.uk/for-members or call us free on 0800 0 857 857

UNISON working with the National Union of Students (NUS)

Every university and college in the country has its own students' union (SU) and you are automatically a member of the SU, unless you choose to opt out. The vast majority of SUs are members of the National Union of Students (NUS), who represent students at a national level.

Your SU should be able to offer advice, referral or representation on

general issues around your education and welfare, including funding, housing and academic appeals. This may be provided in conjunction with your UNISON rep for certain matters like fitness to practice. They will also offer a variety of student activities, and can help you get in touch with your local union's society – or set one up if it doesn't yet exist. Talk to them about the NUS Extra discount card.

You can get more details about NUS and contacts for your local SU at www.nus.org.uk

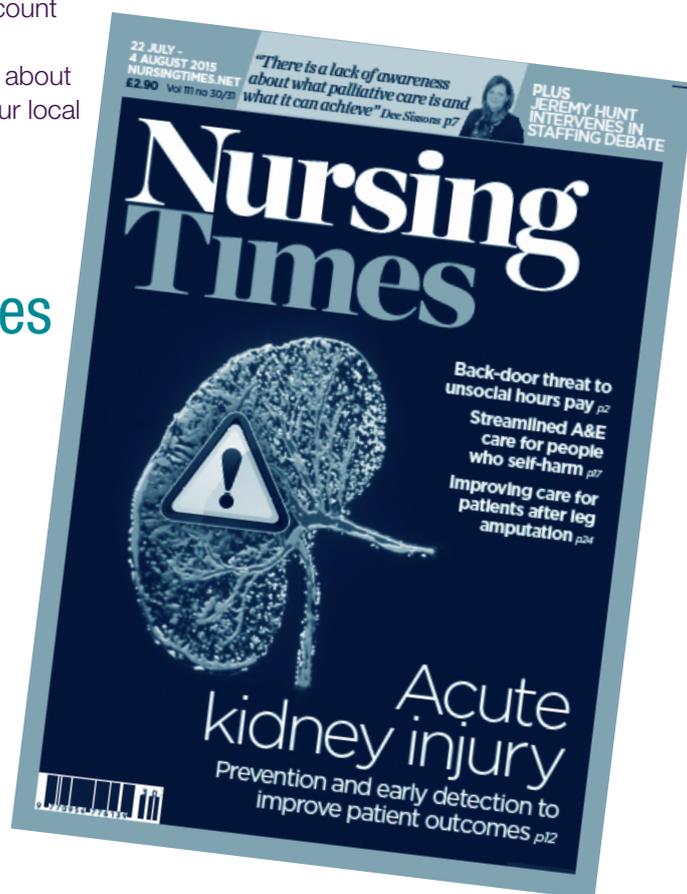
UNISON and Nursing Times partnership

Keeping your knowledge and skills up to date will be forever part of your working life. The Nursing Times is the UK's largest independent nursing publication and your UNISON membership gives you access to all research articles, keeps you up to date on news and opinions and the magazine delivered to your door for a special discounted price – which gives you 20% off a subscription.

And it isn't just the discount – which is a bargain – it means that no matter where you are you will only ever be two clicks away from up-to-date

information. It beats having to stay late at the library.

Find out more at <https://subscribe.nursingtimes.net/snj1407111/>



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As a member of UNISON our essential cover doesn't stop when you leave work. Every member, including students, can access our full range of member benefits and services. So check out our range of exclusive deals and discounts that add real value to your UNISON membership and start saving today.

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As a member of UNISON you get help at work when you need it most, but our support doesn't end when you leave work.

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unison.org.uk/for-members



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£££'s**

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



Join online at
joinunison.org



Call us on
0800 171 2193



Ask your UNISON rep
for an application form

Get active

UNISON is a member led union. We are at our strongest when our members get involved and have a say in what issues we campaign around. There are lots of ways to get involved.

When you qualify

Become a full member of the union when you qualify. Please don't forget to update your membership to ensure that you are a 'full' member. If you don't, you may find yourself in a situation where we can't help you when you need us most.

Young members

Our young members are a very active part of our union so if you are under 27 why not get involved in young members' events and campaigns.

Find out more at <http://www.unison.org.uk/about/our-organisation/member-groups/young-members/>

Keep up to date with what your union is doing

You will find UNISON on Facebook and Twitter -



[@unisontweets](https://twitter.com/unisontweets)



[@unisonnurses](https://twitter.com/unisonnurses)



facebook.com/unisontheunion



facebook.com/unisonnurses

We also use email to keep members up to date on issues that affect them so don't forget to give us a current email address when you join so you don't miss out on information and offers.