

# Join the experts

## Part of the college support staff team?

### Then it's time to join UNISON

Times are tough in colleges these days. Cuts continue to bite hard and the pressure is on you to keep things running smoothly with fewer resources and fewer staff. With area reviews, mergers, curriculum changes it's more important than ever to have the support of a trade union.

It's a good time to have the backing of UNISON – the largest union for all college support staff in the UK.

We understand the issues you face and we are respected by employers

and governments to negotiate on behalf of our support staff members who work in colleges. UNISON represents education support staff in FE colleges, sixth form colleges, universities and schools. We understand the pressures that support staff are under both inside and outside the classroom.

***There are many benefits to being in a union – turn the page to find out more...***



## Why should I join UNISON?

Whatever your role in your college, UNISON offers all its support staff members:

- Expert legal advice should you need it at work (T&Cs apply).
- An annual college seminar open to members covering workplace and professional issues.
- Advice for you about workplace problems, and representation, both individual and collective, to your college employer.
- A helpline open until midnight to help you find the right help.
- Professional and expert advice and guidance, including publications for education support staff on dealing with challenging behaviour, workloads, and supporting learners with health needs.
- Regional learning programme including issues such as autism awareness, behaviour management and dealing with stress.
- Specialist advice on pensions, health and safety, equalities and discrimination.
- A national FE sector committee, which agrees the union's policies and priorities for college support staff and leads national negotiations.
- Regular communication and email updates for college support staff members with the latest on college issues across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.



## And that's not all you get...

All UNISON members also have access to:

- UNISON's charity 'There for You', which is there in times of crisis. There for You can help with debt advice, a credit union, financial assistance and school uniform grants.
- UNISON's own family-friendly Croyde Bay holiday resort in north Devon, offering 15% off breaks for UNISON members, rising to 50% off for low-paid members.
- Expert legal help for you at work and your family at home (T&Cs apply).
- Discounts that can save you and your family money when shopping, buying insurance or looking for a holiday.
- Offers on car insurance, car breakdown cover and independent financial advice.
- The chance to be part of a community that speaks out on the issues that matter to you. And free, accredited training if you want to get more involved in your union.



## UNISON welcomes the whole support staff team, including:

- library staff
  - learning assistants and mentors
  - technicians
  - business managers
  - estates and facilities staff
  - assessors
  - trainers
  - cleaners
  - catering staff
  - information, advice and guidance staff
  - work placement staff
  - exams officers
  - administrative staff
  - finance staff
  - college counsellors
  - security
- ...to name just a few.

## And we need you too...

We develop our campaigns and make decisions through democratic structures, so UNISON relies on finding out about your experiences to inform our work. We run an annual FE support staff survey to find out what matters to you. This means that when we talk to government, employers and professional bodies we know we truly are speaking up for you.

UNISON speaks out for college support staff at a national, regional and local level on education policy.

...and the more members we have, the louder our voice – so join us today!



**UNISON in FE**

Join us by calling  
**0800 171 2193** or visit  
**[joinunison.org](http://joinunison.org)**