UNISON

The union for healthcare students

UNISON
the public service union
Welcome to your new life as a healthcare student. We’d like to congratulate you on choosing a career where you will make a massive difference to people’s lives. Thank you for that and welcome to the NHS family.

As you set out on your new life looking after people, who will look after you?

Well that’s our job. UNISON is the UK’s leading trade union and we are proud to be the largest trade union in the NHS.

So, what is a trade union? Well, it’s a group of working people who have joined together to achieve better pay and working conditions and a safer working environment. That is UNISON, 1.3 million people coming together to benefit from the strength and security that their membership gives them.

We are proud to represent the whole team of staff, including nurses, midwives and paramedics, working together to provide vital patient care and we believe that everyone who works for the NHS, whatever their job, plays a vital role in doing that.

Join us today and be a member of that team.

Sara Gorton
Essential cover from UNISON – the best £10 you will spend this year

As a member of UNISON we offer you essential cover for the whole time you are studying, and once you qualify, that essential cover continues throughout your working life if you become a full member of the union.

We are there for you at work, when you study and for you and your family outside of work and university.

Our member benefits and services include:

- advice, support and help when you need it during your studies and your placement
- a helpline that is open until midnight
- legal help for you at work and our family at home*
- financial assistance and debt advice in times of need
- compensation for accidents and injuries at work.

You will also have access to a range of exclusive member discounts that can save you money on a range of products and services.

And you get all this and more for £10 a year while you are a student.

*Terms and conditions apply – visit unison.org.uk for more details

Don’t miss out!

And if you are a student the offer from UNISON gets even better as we have negotiated some fantastic deals just for you – discounts on essential study reading and a reduced price on Nursing Times, the publication that no student can afford to be without.

So don’t hang about – join UNISON today. Look out for us at induction events and freshers’ events at your university or do it online at joinunison.org

While you’re studying

We offer you great discounts to help you with your studies.

Your UNISON membership gives you 20% off the cost of essential study reading from Oxford University Press. Books that won’t just help you as a student, but that will be a valuable reference source once you’ve qualified. Find out more at unison.org.uk/healthstudent

You will also get 10% off the cost of an annual subscription to Nursing Times, the leading magazine for nurses in the UK that is packed full of essential reading for your studies. You can get more information at unison.org.uk/healthstudent
As you start your studies you might be surprised at how many sources of information there are out there to help you. But how do you know where to find the most useful, valuable and reliable information? Your first port of call is always your college library – where you will probably find they run courses on how to access information. But UNISON can help too.

You can download the “UNISON guide to literature searching” at unison.org.uk/catalogue – search using stock number 2416.

UNISON student membership means you are covered by professional indemnity insurance when you are working on a placement under the supervision of an NHS employer. You can find out more about our indemnity insurance at unison.org.uk/studentnurse or by downloading UNISON’s professional indemnity cover for health workers booklet at unison.org.uk/catalogue – search using stock number 2414.

A valuable part of your studies will be your practice placements which help you to learn, under supervision, in the workplace. These placements are an important part of your course and UNISON has produced a booklet that will help you to get the most from them which you can download from unison.org.uk/catalogue – search using stock number 2415.

If you need advice, help or support our network of trained representatives is there for you and our helpline is open until midnight during the week and during the day at weekends too.

We offer legal help for you at work and representation if you encounter problems during your placement.

Taking equality seriously

UNISON has a proud record on fighting for equality. Everyone is entitled to be treated with dignity and respect. The ability to live and work without prejudice is a fundamental right, regardless of your background, colour or sexual orientation.

One of UNISON’s main aims is to help workers fight for fairness and equality in the workplace and beyond. Challenging discrimination and winning equality is at the heart of everything UNISON does.

Besides the right not to be discriminated against or bullied, fair treatment also includes equal working conditions and pay. You can find out more at unison.org.uk/equality
Supporting you when things get tough

If you find yourself struggling through an unexpected crisis while you are studying, UNISON’s own charity There For You is here to help.

We offer a unique confidential advice and support service just for UNISON members and their dependents. Whether it’s just a chat and someone to listen, or more concrete help, we may be able to help you. We provide financial assistance, debt advice, wellbeing breaks, support and information as well as grants to help you buy school uniforms and access to a network of credit unions.

You can find out more at unison.org.uk/thereforyou

Great deals for everyday life

UNISON is always looking out for you at work and while you study, but there’s so much more to life.

UNISON members can access a range of exclusive deals for everyday life. From family healthcare to a family car, from fun days to holidays, UNISON Living works with a range of trusted partners to get great deals for you and your family. See our full range of member benefits and discounts at benefits.unison.org.uk

Campaigning for a better NHS

UNISON is proud to be a campaigning organisation and there’s never been a more important time for our healthcare student members to help us continue that tradition.

As the NHS turns 70 it is facing unprecedented challenges. Increased demand, staffing shortages and private companies circling like vultures are all adding to the pressures facing overworked staff.

UNISON is campaigning against cuts and privatisation to ensure that when you graduate you are working in an NHS that lets you protect, save and enrich lives, that there are jobs there for you and a rewarding career in the NHS.

We are campaigning for:

- safe staffing levels on our wards to ensure that patient safety is paramount. Adequate levels of staff will also mean that you get the support and supervision you deserve while you are on your placements.
- an end to hospital car parking charges for all NHS staff, including students, while they are at work
- students to be paid a wage while they are on placement, after all you work the same hours, take the same risks and are exposed to the same hazards as NHS staff.
- action to stop violence against NHS staff
• more support for staff experiencing mental health problems due to the pressures of work.

You can get involved and help us make a difference. We know studying takes up a lot of your time, but if you follow us on Facebook at Facebook.com/unison health and Facebook.com/unisonnurses and on Twitter @unisonourNHS and @UNISONtweets. Or keep an eye on our website unison.org.uk where you will find things you can do that only take a minute.

Don’t miss out

What are you waiting for? Don’t miss out on the great support on offer from UNISON today. Join now to get the essential cover we offer and to be part of our team of dedicated NHS staff making a real difference to people’s lives every day.

Look for us at induction and freshers events, call us free on 0800 171 2193 or go to joinunison.org

unison.org.uk/healthstudent