

STUDENT update



Summer 2023

unison.org.uk/healthstudent

UNISON
the public service union

Welcome to all our new joiners this summer, whether you're just beginning your studies or are starting your latest year. We're delighted you're with us in UNISON.

We're the largest union and team across the NHS and social care. With more than 500,000 members we're always speaking up for you, and there's always someone who can help.

We've been hard at work for healthcare and nursing students over the last year. Below are some key updates for you to catch up with.

Cost of living

We're all struggling with the ever rising cost of living; with bills, expenses and groceries all going up. With the limited financial support available and fitting extra work in challenging we know that healthcare students are struggling more than most.

UNISON is campaigning for all our members to receive the income they need and deserve to maintain their standard of living. We're calling for urgent action from Government to support us to meet all our rising costs.

Find out how you can support the campaign here - <https://www.costofliving.unison.org.uk/>

Without better financial support we'll see more healthcare students dropping out of your courses. That's why UNISON has been calling for a better financial deal for healthcare students, with a motion on the topic passed at our health conference this year.

We will be surveying our students to understand your concerns and take action soon – so make sure your details are up to date so you can be contacted.

Future Health Leaders

As a student member of UNISON you can apply to join our 'Future Health Leaders' programme and take the first step in your leadership journey. Find out more at unison.org.uk/futurehealthleaders

Applications for next year's programme will open in January 2024.

'As a first-year mental health nursing student, I was very excited to be selected to participate in the Future Health Leaders programme. I knew that this would provide me with an opportunity that I wouldn't receive elsewhere. Learning about the union's work and campaigns has provided me with valuable information that I can use to support myself and others.'

UNISON has connected us with inspiring individuals such as Ann Keen, a Former Health Minister and Labour MP, and Debra Hazeldine MBE, a Patient Safety Campaigner. The moments of struggle and determination that were shared have inspired me to continue to push forward in my own endeavours for change.'



Discussions around leading and participating in campaigns, such as the NHS Pay Campaign, have inspired me with real examples of change. Conversations about our leadership styles have allowed me to discover what type of leader I am and has helped me to develop my own path to support myself and my fellow nursing students. With the help of UNISON, this programme has enabled me to start building a better foundation to support my future in healthcare.'

Savanna Boyer
Mental Health Nursing Student

Supporting better placements

It's essential as healthcare students that you have access to high-quality clinical placement opportunities that equip you with the skills, knowledge and experience to become confident and effective healthcare professionals.

In early May the Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Trust, working in partnership with UNISON, announced its student 'placement pledge'.



The first of its kind in the Yorkshire & Humberside Region, this partnership sees the Trust and UNISON working together to create a list of standards to improve clinical placements.

We are looking to expand this partnership across other NHS Trusts as it adds such value to students' education. UNISON is seeking to ensure that all students have the best possible placements experience, receive reasonable adjustments for their circumstances and know how to access support when needed.

Nursing survival guide

Are you about to qualify and begin your career as a newly-registered nurse?



There's loads to get your head around in your first professional role and UNISON is here to help you. Our online, interactive nursing survival guide is full of tips and advice on navigating your first registered job; from preceptorships to appraisals, raising concerns to maintaining your health and wellbeing.

Read more and access the guide here when you qualify:
unison.org.uk/survivalguide

Join today and keep up to date with UNISON

As a student you can join UNISON for only £10 a year. At the end of your studies we'll contact you before converting you to a full employed membership. Join today at join.unison.org.uk

Follow us on twitter @UNISONOurNHS and keep up to date on FB at <https://www.facebook.com/unisonhealth/>

Student learning month

The UNISON college provides access for our members to a range of courses to support their learning, career opportunities and trade union skills.

This autumn we are running Student Learning Month to introduce you to our learning opportunities with a number of great taster sessions.

- An Introduction to Drugs Calculations, 27 September
- An Introduction to Academic Writing and Study Skills, 4 October
- An Introduction to Drugs Calculations, 11 October
- Stress Management and Mental Health Awareness 18th October.

Find out more and sign up for the free online sessions at:
unison.org.uk/studentlearningmonth23
You don't need to be a member to access these tasters!

Check out all the other learning opportunities available as UNISON member at <https://learning.unison.org.uk/college/>


Keeping in touch

When you qualify we want to keep in touch!


We'll transfer your membership so you're covered in your first paid role but we'll let you know when we're doing it.

It's important we know how to contact you – Log in and update your details at:

<https://my.unison.org.uk/>



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