

# We need an inclusive and relevant union

## Why vote for me?

As the only Academic Related member standing in the NE in this election, I am asking for your vote to ensure that members of the Academic Team in the North East universities have a voice on the NEC.

The role of AR staff remains under constant threat of being de-professionalised.

Management seek to cut costs by re-advertising vacant positions at lower grades. The threat of out-sourcing is very real – particularly in IT. The NEC must defend all members of the Academic Team.

This is vital if we are to defend and improve our terms and conditions and maintain quality of provision in our universities.

## USS: our deferred income

The current pension dispute is probably the most important in a generation. USS is viable as a defined benefit scheme and we must defend it.

The attack on the scheme is ideological and political. However some VCs are breaking from the fold as they see that moving to a scheme which places the risk entirely on their staff and which gives a worse pension at retirement than the TPS scheme available at competitor universities just does not make any sense. This is a fight we must win.



## Building the union

A supporter of UCU left, I believe our union should campaign where possible with our sister campus unions and the wider trade union movement to protect and improve working conditions and pay.

It is vital that we protect our universities as seats of learning and academic freedom.

To achieve these aims, the membership needs to grow and UCU needs to be seen as inclusive and relevant to everyone at work. People will want to join such a union.

Existing members who are not yet active need to be encouraged and empowered to become more involved with their union. It is vital that branch committees bring on new activists in their branch to build for the future.

All of this will help to strengthen our ability to campaign more effectively.

UCU needs a strong NEC to represent the voices and concerns of

our membership. I believe that the NEC should faithfully implement the democratic decisions of Congress and drive forward the campaign to improve pay and conditions and to defend our universities.

If elected, it would be a privilege to represent you on the NEC.

## Biographical information including service to the union

- Clinical trials coordinator (cardiology) at the University of Hull
- Branch committee member since 2004 (President, VP, Membership Secretary, and Campaigns Officer).
- Caseworker with particular interests in equality and representing casualised workers.
- Vice chair of the Yorkshire and Humberside regional committee (HE).
- Green Party candidate in parliamentary and local elections
- VP and past president of the Hull and District Trades Council.

## STV voting system

Please note that all members can vote in the elections for Equality, Casually Employed members' and Trustees seats

To maximise votes for progressive candidates we ask you to do the following:

- Please use your votes to **first endorse all UCU Left candidates** and only after that use lower preferences for other progressive candidates in each relevant list
- Give your highest preferences in the UK-elected list to UCU Left candidate(s) **from your region**

## UCU Left is supporting the following candidates in the NEC elections

**Vice President FE**  
Nita Sanghera

**London & East HE**  
Paul Anderson  
Rachel Cohen  
Ioanna Ioannou  
Sean Wallis

**London & East FE**  
Julia Roberts  
Sean Vernell

**North East HE**  
Jeff Fowler  
Mike Lammiman  
Steve Lui (Sun Chong Lui)

**North East FE**  
Saleem Rashid

**North West FE**  
Carol Cody

**N. Ireland HE**  
Peter Collins

**UK-elected HE**  
Mark Abel  
Sunil Banga  
Elio Di Muccio  
Julie Hearn  
Jo McNeill

**UK elected HE (casual vacancy)**  
Marion Hersh

**UK-elected FE**  
Margot Hill  
Naina Kent  
Richard McEwan

**Women members HE**  
Sue Abbott  
Pura Ariza  
Marian Mayer

**Women members FE**  
Martha Harris  
Elaine White

**Land-based education**  
Eleni Michalopoulou

**For a lay leadership that will:**

- Fight to defend post-16 education
- Defend members' pensions, pay and conditions
- Respect democratic mandates
- Seek to build a campaigning, member-led union

More election materials can be found at: [uculeft.org](http://uculeft.org)

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