

VOTE UCU LEFT - For a campaigning, member-led union

Rob Macmaster for UK-Elected HE



I am a Principal Lecturer in Politics at the University of Westminster, Chair of the Regent Branch, and a member of the UCU Westminster Negotiating Team since 2015. I have been Secretary to the UCU Committee since 2022.

In my UCU roles, I have improved members' conditions through contract negotiations at ACAS and won ballots for industrial action.

I have prevented management-imposed mid-semester module evaluations and non-negotiated changes to the academic calendar.

I support members through casework and employ different fora and communications to engage with members' concerns. I have organised strike action and pickets in our media attention central London sites. I have helped build up the branch by empowering reps and galvanised members through industrial action, championed their concerns, and resisted management attacks.

I've represented UCU Westminster at Congress and BDMs. I am a UCU London Region Committee member, holding the role of Training Officer.

As a union, we face several challenges:

- A broken funding model with university management fixated on capital projects
- A hostile environment for international students and the insidious legacy of a Tory government-inspired cultural war
- Widespread redundancies and possible university bankruptcies
- Deteriorating pay and conditions with excessive workloads
- Widespread casualisation.

We must ensure the union has the political clout to persuade the Labour government to recognise the contribution higher education makes. Higher education is a significant driver of sustainable economic growth, social mobility and social cohesion.

It has a vital role in research and education in tackling climate emergencies and building a greener future. As a union, we must ensure a properly funded sector by arguing for the return of the block grant, ending the hostile environment for international students and demanding government intervention where university management has recklessly over-extended themselves financially.

If elected to NEC, I shall:

- Help ensure the union has a coherent political strategy and message
- Work proactively in addressing a broken funding model
- Campaign to prevent redundancies and university closures
- Listen to the needs and concerns of members
- Promote an inclusive grass-roots-led organisation.
- Help ensure we are a member-led union that empowers branches through a coherent political and industrial strategy with consistent messaging that improves our pay and conditions.

VP, Trustee & NEC
Elections run 27
January - 3 March -
look out for your
postal ballot

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UCU Left and our
candidates at
uculeft.org