

## UCU industrial action scheduled from Thursday 20 February

Dear student,

I am writing following the previous email from our Vice-Chancellor, Professor Robert Van de Noort, about University & College Union (UCU) industrial action scheduled this term.

The current notified periods of strike action are:

- Thursday 20 and Friday 21 February (two days)
- Monday 24, Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 February (three days)
- Monday 2, Tuesday 3, Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 March (four days)
- Monday 9, Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11, Thursday 12 and Friday 13 March (five days).

Many of you will be worried about the impact this may have on your academic studies this year. I would like to reassure you that, while we acknowledge the right of staff to undertake industrial action, we are committed to minimising the impact for our whole community.

In my role as Deputy Vice-Chancellor, I am leading a group of colleagues to use our previous experience to put effective mitigation measures in place. We have asked all Schools to make arrangements to make up for any missed teaching, which may include rescheduling, combining missed classes with other classes, or providing materials for you to review independently.

Please do take some time to read our [further advice](#) and [frequently asked questions](#) for students on our website. This includes information about our [Impact of Strike Action on Academic Performance \(ISoAP\)](#) process, which you can use if you feel you have been disadvantaged academically in an assessment as a result of industrial action.

We have also set up a [form for travel claims](#); you can use this if you paid to travel to campus on a particular strike day and all your scheduled teaching that day was cancelled with no prior warning. Each claim will be considered on an individual basis and we recommend that you wait until the end of the current action to submit one claim for multiple journeys, if required. You will be required to provide some evidence to support your claim. Please retain receipts or other information to help us process your claim more quickly. The closing date for claims is 20 March 2020. [Click here to access the form](#).

It is important to note that the impact of this action will vary across Schools, Departments and professional services. In the last strike period in autumn 2019, around one third of our approximately 700 UCU members at the University of Reading participated in the action. To put this in context, around 4,300 people work here at the University. As was the case in the autumn, we anticipate that our professional services, including Support Centres, the Library, cafes and other facilities on campus will remain open and available to you as normal.

To keep up-to-date, please do continue to check your University email address and the [Me@Reading student portal](#) regularly. If you have any specific queries about the impact of the strike action on you and your studies, you can speak to your Academic Tutor, Support Centre, Henley Helpdesk or ISLI Teaching Office. You can also contact us using our dedicated email address at [IndActionStudent@reading.ac.uk](mailto:IndActionStudent@reading.ac.uk).

Kind regards,

Professor Parveen Yaqoob

Deputy Vice-Chancellor