

Dear Colleagues,

6 November 2019

Last week, the University and College Union (UCU) announced we are one of 60 higher education institutions in the UK whose members voted in support of taking strike action, or action short of a strike, in relation to the on-going USS pension dispute and/or national pay negotiations.

Yesterday, UCU released the dates for the planned strike action, which are set to be on:

- Monday 25 November – Friday 29 November (5 consecutive days)
- Monday 2 December – Wednesday 4 December (3 consecutive days)

The UCU has also advised their members to begin action short of a strike (ASOS) from Monday 25 November. If members choose to participate in taking action short of a strike it means they will come to work on their usual working days but may not carry out all of their regular duties.

I realise that this news may be unsettling for many of you, and for many of our students, and I remain hopeful that the dispute can be resolved without industrial action. However, I would like to reassure you that since the ballots were announced in June we've been regularly meeting with colleagues across the University, as well as the Students' Guild and Students' Union, to carefully manage the potential impact any planned industrial action may have on our University community, and to ensure any measures we put in place are the right ones for you and for our students.

I also wanted to let you know that I have emailed our students to share the dates of the planned industrial action with them, and to let them know how to access further information, including the [student FAQs](#) we've put together – these will be added to as the situation progresses.

In addition to this, we've also developed an [FAQ page for colleagues](#) and I would like to highlight the resources that are available to support you, if needed. This includes our new self-help tool, [Pro-Counselling](#), which can be used to access 24/7 telephone counselling via our online portal, an online wellbeing space, and face-to-face counselling.

Imelda Rogers, our Director of People Services, will write to you again either later this week or early next week to give you further information about what to do if you intend to participate in strike action, or action short of a strike, so please do look out for further messages and details.

In the meantime, should you have any immediate concerns or queries, please do email me directly via vice-chancellor@exeter.ac.uk and I will ensure you receive a prompt response.

With best wishes,

Steve

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