

Dear Students,

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 this news may be unsettling for many of you 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 our students.

Below is some guidance about what to do on the planned strike dates and where to go to access further information, which I hope you find helpful.

#### What should I do on the planned strike dates?

Not all members of academic staff are members of UCU and some UCU members may not participate in strike action or action short of a strike. Therefore, we would ask you to continue to attend your timetabled sessions, and to submit your assignments by their due dates. Wherever possible, we will let you know in advance if any of your teaching sessions are likely to be affected, however, this may not always be possible as colleagues do not have to let us know if they are participating in the strike action.

#### Further information

We have developed a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page for you so we can answer any further queries that you might have, and we will keep this page updated throughout this period. I would also like to highlight the resources that are available to support you, if needed. This includes our self-help tool, [SilverCloud](#) and our Wellbeing Services at both the [Exeter](#) and [Cornwall](#) campuses.

Please let me reassure you that we are working hard to ensure the impact any planned strike action may have on your experience is minimised and that your academic outcomes are protected.

We will keep you informed as the situation progresses, however, should you have any immediate concerns or queries, please do email [industrialaction@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:industrialaction@exeter.ac.uk) and we will answer your queries as soon as we can.

With best wishes,

Steve

Professor Sir Steve Smith FAcSS  
Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive  
University of Exeter  
Northcote House  
Queen's Drive  
EXETER

EX4 4PD  
United Kingdom