



## **UCU at QUB interim arrangement statement (28 June 2023)**

UCU at QUB has been at the forefront of the UK-wide marking and assessment boycott (MAB). On 26 May 2023, we became the second branch UK-wide to successfully secure a Vice Chancellor statement calling for UCEA to return to negotiations with UCU. Our MAB action, currently impacting an estimated 750 QUB final year students' degree classifications, has brought significant pressure to bear on UCEA in support of the UK-wide MAB.

An interim arrangement with QUB management on pay uplift, pay restoration, and working conditions has been approved by an overwhelming majority of UCU at QUB branch members voting at an EGM. The industrial action timetable at UCU at QUB in Northern Ireland is weeks ahead of the timetable of English universities, and with this interim arrangement, we aim to better align these timelines. The pay uplift aspect of the interim arrangement will continue on an annual basis, in anticipation of a return to negotiation and a pay award increase being agreed between UCU and UCEA in the 2023/24 pay round. With this interim arrangement UCU at QUB sends a message to UCEA that staff pay uplift is not just possible, but also essential, given the decade-long real terms pay decline and the current cost of living crisis faced by staff. As UCU branches UK-wide have demanded for months, returning to negotiation with UCU without preconditions, including on pay, must be UCEA's immediate priority. UCU at QUB will continue to support UCU UK-wide with a donation to the UCU Fighting Fund.

Students have never been our target in this industrial dispute. We are grateful for student solidarity, and we recognise the independent QUB students' protests, undertaken in solidarity with QUB staff. We stand ready to meet with QUB students to discuss how our branch can recognize the impact of the MAB on students and make a positive impact on QUB student wellbeing.

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