

To: All undergraduate and postgraduate students
From: executive.communications@durham.ac.uk
Subject: Important industrial action update
Date: 19/05/2022

Headlines

- The University tabled an offer to our campus Trade Unions on Friday 12 May 2022
- Members of Durham UCU can vote between now and Friday 20 May (noon) on whether to accept the University's offer
- If the offer is accepted, both parties will progress a joint statement on pensions and continue work on addressing agreed local issues. This will bring an end to the current round of industrial action at Durham and will prevent the planned marking and assessment boycott.

Dear students,

We want to provide you with a further update on potential industrial action at Durham University which you will be aware is continuing in respect of national disputes about pensions (USS) and pay and other local issues.

Last Friday, we tabled an offer to our Trade Unions to try and end the dispute and avoid the marking and assessment boycott. This was a significant development with the University and campus Trade Unions working together to try to reach a resolution. All parties have worked hard to get to a stage where an offer could be tabled. We really hope that local UCU members will recognise the significant steps all parties have taken to move forward and accept this offer to avoid industrial action.

Members of Durham UCU have been asked to vote on whether to accept the University's offer. The vote will close on Friday 20 May, and if the offer is accepted, industrial action at Durham University in the current dispute will end. This will avoid the marking and assessment boycott scheduled to start on Monday 23 May.

Summary and next steps

We know this is an uncertain time for you. We would like to reassure you that this is something we have been preparing for over a number of months. If DUCU reject the offer and vote for a marking boycott, the University has detailed plans in place to minimise the impact on individual students. These will be published if and when we know that a marking boycott will take place.

We will let you know the outcome of the vote as soon as it is known. If the offer is rejected, we will immediately provide a further update detailing plans to reduce the impact on our students.

Please continue to look after yourself. Support is available, either through your College or via our [Student Support and Wellbeing](#) services. Please reach out for help if you need it.

Thank you for reading this update and further information can be found at www.durham.ac.uk/industrial-action.

Best wishes,

Alan Houston
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)

