

4 November 2022

Dear Students,

Last week, the University and College Union (UCU) announced that we are one of 150 higher education institutions in the UK whose members voted in support of taking national strike action, or action short of a strike, in relation to pay and conditions, and the on-going USS pension dispute.

Yesterday, the UCU confirmed that it is their intention to take three days of national strike action towards the end of November, and to carry out a marking and assessment boycott in the new year. We will write to you again next week once the UCU has confirmed the exact dates. We would like to reassure you that, during any strike days, our campuses will remain open. Academic colleagues who are not members of the UCU (or who choose not to strike) will continue to teach and we will endeavour to ensure support and services remain available to you wherever possible.

I realise this news may be unsettling for many of you and want you to know that nothing has higher priority to us than supporting your learning and enabling you to achieve your goals at university. At this time, we would encourage you to continue to focus on your studies and to attend your timetabled sessions and submit your coursework /assignments by their due dates.

Since the ballots were announced in August, we've been working closely with colleagues across the University, as well as the Students' Guild and Students' Union, to ensure we identify the right measures to put in place to protect your experience and academic outcomes. In addition to this, we have developed a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page so we can answer any further queries you might have, and we will keep this page updated throughout this period. We are holding University talk and Q&A, via Teams Live, on Tuesday 15 November, 18:15 – 19:00. All students are invited to attend this talk and Q&A and a calendar invitation to this session was sent out on 28 October.

We 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.

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

Finally, please let me reaffirm our commitment to do all we can to ensure your experience and academic outcomes are protected.

With best wishes,

Tim

Professor Tim Quine
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Professor of Earth Surface Science