

STUDENT update



Summer 2024

unison.org.uk/healthstudent

UNISON
the public service union

Welcome to UNISON. We're the biggest, strongest trade union for healthcare workers and students, representing 'one team' in the NHS.

As a student member of UNISON you've got lots of exciting opportunities – all for only £10 a year.

We're already working on a number of key issues for healthcare students which you can read more about below. But we're stronger working together, so why not take part in one of our programmes or support a campaign?

Reasonable adjustments on clinical placements

All workers with disabilities are entitled to 'reasonable adjustments' in their workplace, to enable them to do their job. These can be as simple as different seating arrangements or assistive software.

But healthcare students with disabilities are struggling to get support when they are on clinical placements for their course.

UNISON student Iona Bateman wants to change this. After completing UNISON's Future Health Leaders programme, she wrote a motion which was debated and passed at our health conference in Brighton. Now we're building a campaign to address this issue!

Do you have a disability?
Tell us about your experiences on placement for our campaign.
unsn.uk/reasonable



Making ends meet! Improving student finance

Financial support for healthcare students has not increased in line with the dramatic cost of living crisis of the last few years. We know you need to be able to make ends meet whilst giving enough time and attention to your studies.

UNISON students recently surveyed reported told us that:

- *Their financial situation had deteriorated over the previous year (88%)*
- *They may not be able to afford to complete their course (35%)*
- *They are considering dropping out because of their increasing level of debt (45%)*

UNISON is calling for an urgent review of the financial support for healthcare students in every part of the UK. You deserve an income you can live on.

And don't forget as a UNISON member you may be able to access financial support through our welfare charity, There for You. Visit www.unison.org.uk/thereforyou

Student Learning Month 2024

We're committed to helping all UNISON members develop and learn through the UNISON College.

As a taste of what's available we're offering four interactive learning sessions for our student members this October.

There are sessions on maths for drugs calculations, mental health awareness and study skills. Find out more and tell your student colleagues more here:

www.unison.org.uk/studentlearningmonth



**UNISON
College**

Future Health Leaders 2024

'Future Health Leaders' is the UNISON programme for healthcare students who are looking to develop their leadership skills and experience. On the programme UNISON students from around the UK meet and question inspiring healthcare leaders, undertake local campaigning activities, learn about healthcare policy and how to influence it, and develop their understanding of key equalities issues.



Megan Wilson-Ibbotson
Nottingham Trent University

I am a first year student studying Adult Nursing and I am really excited to be taking part in the Future Health Leaders programme.

I joined UNISON a couple of years ago when I began working in the care sector...I would encourage all healthcare students to be a member; we face challenging situations every day and the union is a supportive community who are always there for you. Equally, the opportunities I have had the past 3 years in the union have been incredible for both my personal and professional development. I've always felt that when there has been something I've wanted to achieve UNISON has been there to support me.

My favourite part of the Future Health Leaders programme so far has been getting to meet like-minded students from across the union. It is really inspiring to hear about their experiences and campaigns, and it inspires me to do more in my own region.



Sunny Atkinson
Student award winner

Soneika Atkinson, a mental health nursing student and UNISON 'Future Health Leader' recently won the national 'outstanding contribution to student affairs' award by the Nursing Times.

Sunny was delighted with the award which recognised her commitment to student affairs and 'extraordinary' impact.

You can follow in Sunny and Megan's footsteps by becoming a UNISON 'Future Health Leader' – apply in January!

Why not put in your application to take part next year?

www.unison.org.uk/futurehealthleaders

Keep up to date with UNISON

When you qualify we want to keep in touch.

We'll transfer your membership so that you're covered in your first paid role but we'll let you know when we're doing it.

It's important we know how to contact you – Log in and update your details at my.unison.org.uk/

Join us in UNISON today

If you're a full-time healthcare student you can join UNISON for only £10 a year.

Join today at join.unison.org.uk

Follow us on X @UNISONOurNHS and keep up to date on Facebook at www.facebook.com/unisonhealth

Pride in our work



We're so proud that 2024 is UNISON's Year of LGBT+ workers. We're not only celebrating our diverse LGBT+ members and improving visibility in the workplace, but fighting to make everyone feel safe and equal. We're achieving real change including getting employers to introduce meaningful policies on discrimination and harassment and challenging the worrying attacks on LGBT+ rights in wider society. Find out more and get involved at www.unison.org.uk/out



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