



**Future
Health
Leaders
Programme**

Healthcare students choose to embark upon a career in healthcare because they want to make a difference. UNISON is here for those looking to take the next big step towards a future where they can lead positive change for colleagues and the people they care for.

Our Future Health Leaders programme provides that fantastic opportunity.

Testimonies from previous participants

“It was excellent...helped me to understand the work of unions and made me more interested in doing more.”

“It’s given me the confidence to speak up about important topics, be more assertive, ask questions and a better understanding of leadership.”

“I now feel like I have a place in UNISON and have gained a voice as an advocate that I hope to use to be a part of supporting patients, service users, fellow students and colleagues.”

“A great opportunity for us to increase our skills in leadership and healthcare policy.”

The programme

The Future Health Leaders programme runs annually from March to October. Participants will participate in:

- An online welcome and orientation day
- Four online afternoon sessions between April and September
- A celebration and reflection day at UNISON Centre at the end of October

The learning outcomes for the programme are:

- Greater awareness of how healthcare policy is made
- Improved debating and influencing skills
- Better understanding of equalities and how to be an ally or advocate
- Enhanced knowledge of UNISON structures and campaigns



Each session will include:

- Individual and group activities with the UNISON College on leadership skills and practices
- A session from members of the UNISON Equalities team
- Learning & development with the UNISON Health team
- An inspiring talk from a current healthcare leader with the opportunity to ask questions and discuss

In addition, each year participants on the programme hold a debate on a contentious issue in health policy. This takes place online with guests invited to contribute and listen in. It's a great opportunity to put new debating and influencing skills to the test.

Each student who completes the programme will graduate as a UNISON 'Future Health Leader'.

The campaign

During the programme, participants will be matched up with a coach from UNISON in their local area. This friendly coach will be a helpful contact to introduce students to UNISON and to support them with their campaign.

Participants will get the opportunity to campaign on an issue important to them in their local area. This could be something of personal importance or an existing UNISON campaign. By doing so, participants will put their new skills and knowledge into practice and learn important lessons about leading change.

Eligibility Criteria

- A member of UNISON
- Undergraduate student on any healthcare course leading to a career in healthcare
- Must be able to attend 6 sessions through the year.

FAQs

How do students apply for the programme?

Those wishing to participate should complete an application form at unison.org.uk/futurehealthleaders. All UNISON students are emailed and encouraged to apply when applications open in the winter.

How many students can participate?

We accept only one or two students from each UNISON region to ensure those on the programme get individual guidance and a supportive programme.

Does UNISON cover the cost of taking part?

Any accommodation and travel expenses that students incur to participate in the face-to-face elements of the programme are covered by the national health team.

Do I need to be an experienced health student to participate?

No, the programme is open at all healthcare students, whatever point they are at in their studies. Interested students should consider their own priorities and whether this programme is the right opportunity for them.

What is the time commitment involved?

Students will need to commit to the online welcome event and the in-person celebration event, with four online afternoon sessions scheduled in between. Dates are provided well in advance. Whilst we will be understanding of students' other pressing commitments, applicants should plan to attend all of the sessions.

We look forward to receiving your application! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch via health@unison.co.uk.