

Union of Students Derby

Striking Guide for students

We understand that there is currently worry and confusion regarding the strikes, so this document is a simple guide for what is happening during the Strikes and what you can do.

What & When: Confirmed Strikes Days

Currently we are aware of three confirmed Strike days occurring at the University this term. There is also the possibility of marking boycotts and other strike action being included or added to this - it will be published by us when/if we are made aware.

Following a recent formal ballot, members of the University and College Union (UCU) at Derby have voted in favour of strike action in response to recent University proposals regarding redundancies.

Strike days are:

- Tuesday 2nd December
- Wednesday 3rd December
- Thursday 4th December

Changes: What will happen to my classes?

Feedback on assignments, assessments, or coursework may be delayed, and deadlines could shift.

Certain lectures, seminars, tutorials, and workshops may be postponed, cancelled, or delivered differently (the university is taking measures to minimise the effect on student study).

We do not know which courses will be more impacted - it is possible you will be notified so keep an eye on your email inbox.

Changes: What will still be in place?

The Union is not impacted by the strikes and as such our support services are still in place to help and support you.

The Student Hub & Online Hub as provided by the University will be in place during the strike if you have any questions.

The University campuses will remain open and the Library resources or room booking will remain unaffected by strike action.

What have UCU said?

Below is a statement made public on UCU (Union of College and University) website regarding their position on the strikes. This statement was made on 13 November 2025 and explains their stance.

In the ballot, 82% of those that took part voted for strike action, with 93% backing action short of a strike (ASOS), on a 66% turnout.

The dispute centres on the university's refusal to rule out compulsory job losses and course closures for the 2025/26 academic year. This comes after two previous rounds of redundancies, which have already targeted research and managerial positions.

Despite repeated attempts by the UCU branch to engage in constructive negotiations, senior management has refused to provide assurances that there will be no further job cuts. The union said the threat of redundancies is unjustified, particularly given the university's significant recent spending, including £75 million on the Cavendish Building project.

The union also said the dispute could be resolved immediately if the vice-chancellor and senior leadership commit to no compulsory redundancies and no course closures.

UCU general secretary Jo Grady said: 'This overwhelming mandate for action at Derby is yet another sign that university staff across the UK will not tolerate needless cuts. The university's management could resolve this dispute immediately by ruling out compulsory redundancies and working with UCU to develop a fair, sustainable financial plan. Staff deserve security, respect, and a voice in shaping the future of their institution.'

What are my rights? OFS published guidelines

Below is a brief description of your rights as a student that the Office for Students has published on their website to help guide students.

1. No unfair contract limits

Universities shouldn't use contract clauses to avoid delivering services and must tell students if contracts change.

2. Contingency plans

They must have clear, workable plans that meet student needs and protect the integrity of qualifications.

3. Delivering education

They should minimise disruption, replace missed teaching, and reschedule affected assessments where needed.

4. Compensation

If plans fail and your education is significantly disrupted, they should offer fair compensation—for missed teaching, delayed marking, or delays affecting visas, jobs, or further study.

5. Clear communication

They must keep you informed, offer support, identify students owed compensation, and explain complaint routes (including the independent adjudicator).

6. Reporting

Universities must report industrial action to the Office for Students.

OFS website: officeforstudents.org.uk/for-students/student-rights/student-guide-to-industrial-action

How do I get involved? Working with the Union...

- Use [the poll on the Union of Students website](#) to assert your stance on an Open Letter sent to Deputy Vice-Chancellor by our executive officers
- Write to Exec Officers of the Union or Executive Staff of the University sharing your position on the strikes
- We have more student leaders than ever this year, contact your student rep or community committee member so your voice can be channelled

Definition: Executive Officers are former Derby students who were elected by students to represent their interests at the Union of Students - shaping the direction of the UoS

How do I get involved? Working with UCU...

- There is likely going to be picket lines on the University Campus during the strike action, those who support the work of UCU can stand by these pickets in support

Definition: A picket is a boundary or sometimes area established by workers on strike to show support of those who are not working - allies and those who are not striking themselves can also join this picket

- Email the University Executives your own stance (or a group) on the redundancies and strikes and if you agree with the strike action

How do I get involved? Working with Student Groups...

These group have contacts listed below as you may want to join them in sharing your dissatisfaction with the current direction of the University. There are other groups that exist but without publicly available email addresses that can be shared to students until they have been created.

- Derby Transparency & Accountability: DerbySTA@outlook.com
- Students of Derby: studentsofderby@gmail.com
- Save Derby Uni: [@SAVE.DERBYUNI](https://www.facebook.com/SAVE.DERBYUNI/)

How do I get involved? If I don't like the Strikes (advice from OFS)

There will be a variety of opinion on the strikes, the Office for Students has provided advice for students who are unhappy with strike action.

This is a simplified version, nmore details can be found here:

[What to do if you're unhappy with the impact of industrial action - Office for Students](#)

1. Talk to your university first

Raise concerns early with the appropriate staff. They should respond helpfully. Your students' union can also advise you.

2. Make a formal complaint

If issues aren't fixed, you can file a formal complaint using your university's official process. Students' unions can support you: [derby.ac.uk/about/academic-regulations/student-complaints](https://www.derby.ac.uk/about/academic-regulations/student-complaints)

3. Go to the OIA

If you're unhappy with the university's response, take your case to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for free. They check what was promised, what was delivered, and can recommend remedies, including partial refunds.

Office for Independent Adjudicator (OIA) oiahe.org.uk/resources-and-publications/industrial-action

Supporting Students: Union help we offer

Advice team:

We have a brilliant advice team at the Union who are dedicated to helping support you through any issues (including strikes). You can book in an online or in person session or speak to their online chat.

derbyunion.co.uk/advice/onlinebooking

derbyunion.co.uk/advice

Student Leaders:

Please use our website to find out who your student rep is for your course and year and contact them

derbyunion.co.uk/voice/academicreps

If this situation has motivated you to become more active within the student body and be a student leader, please sign up here to be a student rep:

<https://wkf.ms/42xbEJl>

Communities:

Get in contact with your committee members of your community/society to see if you can create society events relating to strikes or redundancies

Welfare:

We have an elected executive officer dedicated to supporting the welfare of students at Derby:

vpwelfare@derbyunion.co.uk

welfare@derbyunion.co.uk

Additional resources –

Another great place for pastoral care is the Multi-faith Centre as they can support a variety of students with different beliefs.

multifaithcentre.org

