

Oxford UCU Branch Motion

Passed at Branch AGM on 23rd June 2026

This motion was ratified by the AGM following a unanimous but inquorate vote at the Branch Extraordinary General Meeting on 28th April 2026.

Resisting Mass Redundancies:

Solidarity with Branches Taking Industrial Action (April 2026)

This branch notes

- That a [large number of UCU branches](#) are currently taking industrial action or have recently achieved a mandate for industrial action, responding to threats of mass redundancies.
- Among the branches taking action, the following have recently asked for solidarity donations to their hardship and fighting funds:
 - **University of Leicester UCU.** Management opened up a [voluntary severance scheme](#) in autumn 2024. In June 2025, they considered [closing the departments of Geography, Geology, and the Environment, Chemistry, and Education](#), as well as degree programmes in Modern Languages and Film Studies. In October 2025, the [university put 150 jobs at risk](#) and considered [closing courses](#). By March 2026 it transpired they were looking to turn human geography and chemistry into teaching-only. So far, members have taken 28 days of action; and there are more strike days scheduled for 5, 11, 18 May.
 - **London Metropolitan University UCU.** In January 2026, management announced 110 proposed academic redundancies which amounts to [one fifth of its academic staff](#). Members have taken 6 days of strike action, with two more currently scheduled for 28 and 29 April.
 - **University of Essex UCU.** In November 2024, management announced they were seeking to [lose 200 members](#) of staff to find £29 million savings'. In December 2025, the university announced they were planning to [shut their Southend campus and make 400 people redundant](#). So far, the branch has taken 17 days of strike action.
 - **Goldsmiths UCU.** In the summer of 2024, management pushed through redundancies, including losing convenors of key and unique masters programmes. By June 2025, they opened another voluntary severance scheme. In March 2026, management announced yet another round of voluntary severance and restructuring. They are now looking to get rid of one in four colleagues. From 27 April, members will be undertaking a [marking and assessment boycott \(MAB\)](#), with the threat of 100% pay deductions not yet off the table.

This branch believes

- As a large branch that has not recently taken industrial action (as of April 2026), Oxford UCU has a duty to support branches that are currently fighting to defend jobs.
- Strong industrial action elsewhere also makes Oxford UCU members safer, by

discouraging local management from attempting redundancies, and by helping to regulate the HE labour market from below.

- The scale of the current assault on HE once again highlights the brokenness of the current funding model, and the need for UCU to campaign for public funding.

This branch resolves

- To donate £500 each to University of Leicester UCU, London Metropolitan UCU, University of Essex UCU, Goldsmiths UCU.
- To mandate branch delegates to UCU Congress to support the motion (submitted by GUCU and other branches) calling on UCU leadership to progress the trade dispute with the Secretary of State for Education over the funding model for Higher Education, as passed at last year's HE Sector Conference (motion HE14).