

# OUR PENSION AXED.

## A MESSAGE FOR STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE UNION – WHY WE ARE GOING ON STRIKE

### WHAT IS THE DISPUTE ABOUT?

Universities UK has proposed to axe the guaranteed pension for tens of thousands of university staff. Independent research shows the typical UCU member stands to see their retirement income reduced by £10,000 a year if these cuts to the USS pension fund are imposed.

### WHY TAKE STRIKE ACTION?

88% of UCU members voted to take strike action in legal ballots on record turnouts, but despite this staff concerns have been completely ignored by universities. While UCU has sought a negotiated solution, the employers are committed to a hard-line approach which decimates staff's retirement savings. Strike action is the last resort for us but in this case we have no choice.

### WHO IS AFFECTED?

UCU has initially called 14 days of strike action which will begin in many of the UK's universities on 22 February 2018 and continue throughout the following weeks. To see if your university is affected go to: [www.ucu.org.uk/14-strike-dates](http://www.ucu.org.uk/14-strike-dates)

### HOW LONG WILL THE INDUSTRIAL ACTION LAST?

UCU members want to be at work, not on strike. But we are determined to continue the dispute until we achieve justice for our members.

### CAN THE STRIKE BE RESOLVED?

Yes. The National Union of Students has called for the involvement of the government's arbitration service ACAS to bring the two sides together for meaningful negotiations. Some vice-chancellors have even publicly asked their own side to resume national talks. UCU is happy to take up either suggestion. We believe both sides owe students their best efforts to resolve things before disruption begins.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

[www.ucu.org.uk/why-we-are-taking-action-over-USS](http://www.ucu.org.uk/why-we-are-taking-action-over-USS)

- Find out more about what is at stake
- Email your vice chancellor to ask for fresh negotiations
- Support your staff – donate to the UCU Fighting Fund