

Members raise concerns about Health and Safety **We have written to INTO about concerns about the measures that are in place regarding Covid-19**

UCU has written to INTO reflecting concerns from members that have been communicated about Covid-19. No response as yet (4/11/21). Concerns include:

- issues around hot-desking;
- in-person activities (particularly meetings of staff);
- consultation over Risk Assessments;

The correspondence is available [here](#):

George Stevenson

George has left INTO for another job. UCU colleagues offer their thanks:

"When I first met George he came to me and said he was a UCU member working at INTO and wanted to do some trade union organising. Since that time, he has never stopped. He will be missed. We build on his good work."

Iain Owens, Regional Official

"Newcastle University Branch Committee has taken a vote of thanks for George and all his hard work both at INTO and for his involvement on the branch committee. I would like to say personally that it has been a pleasure and an inspiration working with George over the past two years and the work he has done at INTO in Newcastle will I am sure have a lasting effect. We wish him all the best in his new job."

Graham Kirkwood, Newcastle University Branch Chair



*"The union demands are much too reasonable.
I need something I can reject out of hand."*

UCU Contacts

The following members have put themselves forward to be UCU contacts:

Hannah Richardson
Hedley Sugar-Wells
Yvonne Wancke

Want to get involved? Please contact Hannah, Hedley or Yvonne. Alternatively, click here to [send an email](#) to the Regional Office.

"Thank You" George

George Stevenson has worked at INTO Newcastle University since 2016. He has been a member of UCU right from the start, and an enthusiast for building the union in the workplace.

Our members wanted to show their appreciation:

A big thank you from me to George for all his great help and support! He has been great at listening to other colleagues problems and helping them out as much as he can, offering good advice, and speaking up for them. It is greatly appreciated! He has also made great efforts to form a union for INTO Newcastle staff.

I should like to thank George for all of his hard work and good humour in supporting UCU and the push to get INTO to recognise the union. He has given of his time freely to support individuals with work-related issues, esp. PMPDs and encouraged us all to find our voice. Also, he is a lovely man, whose positivity will be sadly missed.

Just want to wish you all the best in your new venture and thanks for all you have done in helping us get union recognition. It is much appreciated. Best wishes.

Thank you for being a voice for us at INTO. I joined UCU when the PMPD process came in but I wasn't sure who else was in the union or what this would mean for me and my job (it felt a bit risky joining, even though I have always believed in unions and was previously a member of UCU when I had last worked in education). However, not long after that, you contacted me and I found out there were others! So it was great to feel confident in belonging to the union and not being fearful of voicing our opinions – knowing that there were others was a big support. You've done a lot to engage other staff too, and create opportunities to meet other UCU reps. So thank you for all your work and I felt genuinely sorry when I heard you would be leaving. All the best for your future job!

Thank you for being such a great colleague and union activist, always encouraging and supportive. All the very best for the future. Solidarity.

Precarious Work

We have had the following messages about insecurity and uncertainty at INTO. If you have had similar experiences, get in touch.

"I have felt very insecure in my job at INTO. Constant messaging from management since the start of the pandemic that higher education will be severely affected has not helped. Being told that to avoid redundancies staff will have to make sacrifices in the form of reduced hours adds to my uncertainty. Being furloughed, being moved from one programme to another, it often seems that the flexibility is quite one-sided. I understand the need for flexibility, but some reciprocity would be welcomed."

"We quite regularly get emails from management, talking about lower than hoped student numbers and warning us of the need to be flexible. Whilst I can understand that nothing is certain and concrete, I am always left worrying if I might have a job. This makes it difficult to plan or look forward."



**I support
SECURE
employment
for ALL staff**

UCU fighting casualisation www.ucu.org.uk