

Higher education is vital for individual enhancement, a fairer society and a successful economy. Learning has benefits for people of all ages in terms of employability and, more broadly, for wellbeing, development and self-confidence.

Universities are also key economic contributors, both as local employers and because they provide the skilled workers on which the economy depends.

To realise the full potential of learning for our society, higher education must be adequately resourced and genuinely accessible to people from different backgrounds.

UCU Scotland's policy proposals are based on a set of guiding principles agreed at UCU Congress in 2014, which state that policies and funding initiatives should:

- make it easier for people to reach their full potential
- increase our academic capacity and research base
- make Scotland a more attractive place for academic staff to work
- make it less costly for individuals to study, whether young or old
- broaden the range of subjects available for study
- lead to higher quality and reduced fragmentation in the sector.

ABOUT UCU

UCU is the largest trade union in the Post-16 education sector in the UK, representing more than 110,000 academic and related members across the UK, and is the largest union in the higher education sector in Scotland.

We campaign for greater public investment in higher education as well as fair pay and decent working conditions for our members.

For more information of UCU Scotland's policy proposals and campaigns see:

www.ucu.org.uk/scotland or
contact mmathison@ucu.org.uk



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2015 and beyond

UCU SCOTLAND'S VISION FOR SCOTLAND'S KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

In preparation for the General Election in 2015, the University and College Union (UCU Scotland) has set out seven policy proposals for higher education. We are calling on politicians from all parties to recognise the value of higher education and support these proposals.



UCU Scotland's **seven** ideas for the next government

1 Commit to increased public spending on the knowledge economy including higher education.

2 Commit to keeping undergraduate study fee-free for Scottish domiciled students, and accessible to all.

3 Increase transparency and accountability in the governance of Scotland's universities.

4 Ensure academic freedom for all university staff working in teaching and research.



5 Protect our global reputation and remove overseas students from the immigration cap.

6 Reintroduce a two-year post-study work entitlement for international students graduating from Scottish institutions.

7 End exploitative working practices including casualisation and zero-hours contracts in higher education.

Higher education facts



Higher education in Scotland directly employs over 39,000 people and supports over 140,000 in the Scottish economy. (Universities Scotland)



Our universities offer a sixfold return on public investment to economic impact. (Universities Scotland)



University graduates earn on average 40% more across their lifetime than non-graduates. (BIS)



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