

# STUDENT update



Academic year 2025/2026

[unison.org.uk/healthstudent](https://unison.org.uk/healthstudent)

**UNISON**  
*the public service union*

UNISON is the biggest, strongest trade union for healthcare workers and students, representing 'One Team' in the NHS.

As a student member of UNISON you'll get essential cover and support throughout your studies, along with access to all our exciting learning and development opportunities.

Together in UNISON we are stronger. We're always campaigning and winning, together with our members, so join us and get involved. Read on to find out more about the exciting work of UNISON and how we can help you at work and in your career.

## Reasonable adjustments on practice placements

UNISON is here to support you to have the best possible placements, receive reasonable adjustments in a timely manner if you need them, and know how and where to access support if you need it.

Too many of our disabled healthcare student members have struggled to access the reasonable adjustments they need on practice placements and this has even forced some to consider pausing or leaving their studies entirely.

We have produced a guide for disabled healthcare students to provide you with information on your rights, how to access reasonable adjustments on placement and what to do if you aren't getting the support you need.

Find the guide and more info at [unison.org.uk/healthstudent](https://unison.org.uk/healthstudent)

We will continue to campaign with our members to ensure all healthcare students get positive and valuable experiences on practice placements.

## NMC Practice Learning Review

The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) sets the standards for educational programmes for nursing and midwifery students. They are currently reviewing their requirements for practical learning and how students learn skills and meet competencies on practice placements.

UNISON is representing the student voice in this review because high-quality practice learning is crucial to your professional development. Building on feedback from student members, we are focussed on:

- Ensuring supernumerary status and high quality supervision and teaching from registered nurses and midwives
- Access to reasonable adjustments and support for those with disabilities
- Fairer access to quality simulated learning opportunities

We'll be looking to update students and gather your views as this review progresses, so look out for further updates from UNISON Health.

UNISON also continues to work closely with HCPC, the regulator for Allied Health Professions, to represent students on other health courses.

## Join us in UNISON today

If you're a full-time healthcare student you can join UNISON for only £10 a year.

Join today at [join.unison.org.uk](https://join.unison.org.uk)

Follow us on:

**X**  
[@UNISONOurNHS](https://twitter.com/UNISONOurNHS)

**BlueSky**  
[@unisonhealth.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/unisonhealth.bsky.social)

**Facebook**  
[facebook.com/unisonhealth](https://facebook.com/unisonhealth)

**Instagram**  
[@unison.health](https://www.instagram.com/unison.health)

## Future Health Leaders

'Future Health Leaders' is the UNISON programme for healthcare students who are looking to develop their leadership skills and learn how to make change happen.



On the programme, UNISON students from around the UK meet and question inspiring healthcare leaders, undertake local campaigning activities, learn about healthcare policy and how to influence it, and develop their understanding of key equalities issues.

Applications for the next cohort will open in January 2026. If you want to be a Future Health Leader, make sure you apply:  
[unison.org.uk/futurehealthleaders](https://unison.org.uk/futurehealthleaders)

### Claire Welch

3rd year learning disability nursing student

My mum was a UNISON member throughout her career and I applied for the Future Health Leaders programme in 2024 after starting my degree at the University of South Wales.



I thoroughly enjoyed the programme. It was a chance to meet other like-minded students from across the UK, to hear from leading figures in healthcare and to learn more about UNISON's structure and the important work it undertakes.

The programme offers the chance to lead positive change and gives students the confidence to speak up about important topics and become advocates for those we endeavour to work with and care for. It provides an exciting opportunity to understand policies, learn about campaigns and to gain knowledge on the leadership skills needed in today's healthcare environment, while ultimately making a difference for others.

### John-Paul Denis

Newly qualified adult nurse

I am a newly qualified nurse currently working in Leicester. I joined UNISON during my first year as a student and had the privilege of participating in the Future Health Leaders programme last year.



I chose to join the programme because I believed it would equip me with the essential skills needed to develop my leadership capabilities as I transitioned into the role of a staff nurse. However, the experience far exceeded my expectations. In addition to gaining valuable insights from experienced UNISON leaders and political figures within the health sector, I found inspiration and encouragement to become actively involved in UNISON and to contribute meaningfully as a catalyst for change.

Since completing the programme, I have attended several conferences, assumed the role of Young Members Officer for my local UNISON branch, and I've taken an active role in campaigning for improved rights for health students—an initiative I am deeply passionate about. I would strongly encourage all healthcare students to consider enrolling in the Future Health Leaders programme.

## Keep up to date with UNISON

We want to make it easy for you to keep your UNISON benefits when you qualify. If you pay by direct debit, we make the process hassle-free by transferring your student membership to full UNISON membership. You don't have to do a thing!

It's important we know how to contact you – log in and update your details at  
[unison.org.uk/my-unison](https://unison.org.uk/my-unison)

## Student learning month

All UNISON members can access helpful, interactive learning opportunities through the UNISON College.

Every Wednesday evening this October, the College is running exciting sessions designed specifically for new healthcare students.

These taster sessions will cover maths skills for drugs calculations, academic writing tips, how to make the most out of your placements and support to manage your mental health.

Wednesday evenings in October, 6-8pm

- Maths for healthcare students
- Academic writing and study skills
- How to make the most out of your practice placements
- Mental health and stress management

Find out more and sign up for **free** at [unison.org.uk/studentlearningmonth](https://unison.org.uk/studentlearningmonth)

