

UCU reports on jobs crisis in Further and Higher education

The UK is in the midst of a crisis in education as the recession hits universities and colleges, according to job loss figures released by UCU.

The figures may just be the tip of the iceberg as many institutions are failing to consult with the union properly and every day brings another story of job cuts.

In total across the UK 5,891 jobs are at risk or being cut with **4,593 in Higher Education** and 1,298 in further education. Over a third of those jobs (2,165) will be lost in London and over 100,000 students will be affected.

What about jobs at Christ Church?

Fortunately there are currently no plans for redundancies at Canterbury Christ Church University. Will our institution be able to avoid the effects of the recession? Will there be cuts in the future? The truth is "who knows?"

Remember in the event of any future financial problems, the first response of management is often staff cuts. A major role of the local UCU is to resist any possible attempt at such a direction by the management at our institution.

As your local branch we will work in a positive manner with management to avoid any possibility of redundancies.

What you can do to help avoid the possibility of redundancies

It is important that all union members support all creative ways to generate new income. It is not really the role of the union to drive this type of initiative but of course as individuals we should support it.

One of the main roles of a union is to support members who are threatened with redundancy and to formulate arguments (and action) against any attempts at enforcing redundancies.

If you are a member of the UCU you should get involved in informing any arguments against plans for possible redundancies. The UCU nationally has been very effective at stopping plans for redundancies at many institutions throughout the country. Of course this is easier if the local branch of the UCU is active and focused with support of local members.

If you are **not** a member of the UCU you are allowing **others** to make decisions that will have a dramatic effect on your career. You should join the union and add your voice to the debate. If redundancies become a reality at our institution and you are not a UCU member who is going to support you?

How to Join the UCU

For details on joining the UCU, go to the web site at:

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/>