UNISON College

FREE national learning for UNISON Members 2026



July - September 2026

https://unison.org.uk/learning

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Disclaimer

When our brand new LMS is launched later this year - booking onto a course will be a little different than what is shown in this brochure:

- Easier and more straightforward for you to see what training is open and relevant to you
- Easier and more straightforward to get signed up to the courses you want to attend.

Watch this space... but for now , all our courses can be found here:

Events | UNISON - the public service union



We've moved!

Find us in our new space on the brand new UNISON website

https://unison.org.uk/learning

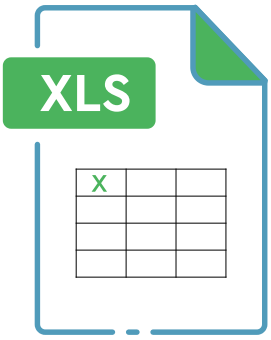
Or follow us on social media?

email: l.organising@unison.co.uk to find our how



Digital Skills

UNISON College



Making progress in excel

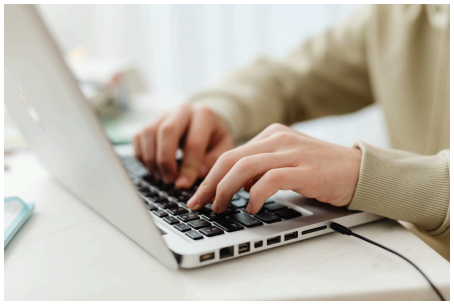
If you have some existing knowledge of Excel functions and wish to enhance and refresh your skills, this course is for you. Learn to organise table data, enhance the look and appeal of workbooks by adding graphic objects. Manipulate more complex formulas and functions and create and modify charts. This is a 2 day course and you must be free to attend both days

23/09/2026 and
24/09/2026 09:30-13:00
(both days)

https://unison.org.uk/events/making-progress-excel

Civicos training and Communications

This Training is delivered by Civicos training and communications who were set up in 2016 as a not-for-profit social enterprise and is already the largest provider of vocational training to third sector organisations in Scotland.



Staff Skills academy+ onine courses

- Computers and internet for beginners certification
- IT Certificate level 2
- Microsoft Word certificate leves 1-3
- Powerpoint Diploma
- + many more courses available on the platform

Apply for your free licence to access this platform:

https://unison.org.uk/learning/staff-skills-academy

For any further help booking onto this or any other National course please email:
l.organising@unison.co.uk
or call UNISON Direct on 08000857857

Deaf awareness and BSL

UNISON College



Introduction to BSL basics

Join us for an engaging and informative Deaf Awareness session designed to increase understanding and confidence when communicating with Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals. This session introduces key aspects of Deaf culture, communication tips, and practical ways to create a more inclusive environment at work, school, or in the community. you will need a working camera to get the most out of this session

25/08/2026 - 09:00 -10:00 https://unison.org.uk/events/introduction-basic-sign-language

or

29/09/2026 - 16:00 -17:00 https://unison.org.uk/events/introduction-basic-sign-language-0



Deaf Awareness

This session will identify the communication differences of Deaf and hearing people, building up an awareness of the many challenges faced by the Deaf community. This will be an insightful session encompassing many elements of daily life that present additional challenges for Deaf people and people with hearing loss. This interactive session will demonstrate ways that the hearing world can work with the Deaf community to promote equality and inclusion.

23/07/2026 - 09:30 -12:30 https://unison.org.uk/events/introduction-basic-sign-language-0

CC Tutoring

Both of these sessions are being delivered by Caroline Cleghorn of CC Tutoring. She has a BA Information Management (Hons) 2.1 and Post Graduate Certificate of Education and is currently waiting to take her final exam with Signature for British Sign Language Level 4. She has over 20 years' experience as a Digital Complex Needs Further Education Tutor and is also a Specialist Communication Support Worker within the Deaf community.

For any further help booking onto this or any other National course please email:
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Loss and Bereavement

UNISON College



Loss and Bereavement Awareness

The session will reflect on the grieving process, using current models of grief to help attendees understand. It will help participants to understand why people grieve differently and the factors that influence how they grieve as well as exploring the impact of loss and grief on individuals, friends, families and colleagues.
You will also explore how to provide emotional and practical support and how to communicate effectively and compassionately to someone who is grieving.

10/08/2026 - 19:00 -21:30 https://unison.org.uk/events/general-loss-and-bereavement-awareness

Cruse Bereavement Support

Cruse are grief specialists who help people through one of the most painful times in life – with bereavement support, information and campaigning. Their vision is about creating a world where everyone grieving is supported, respected and understood.

Grief can be overwhelming
If you or someone you know is struggling with grief :
Cruse helpline: 0808 808 1677
Cruse website: https://www.cruse.org.uk/



For any further help booking onto this or any other National course please email:
l.organising@unison.co.uk
or call UNISON Direct on 08000857857

Dealing with difficult...



... face to face conversations

This online course, delivered by a specialist conflict management tutor from 2Resolve, via zoom is aimed at all members who have face to face conversations during their work day and may often be faced with tackling difficult conversations or topics, or who may have conversations with people who are aggressive or angry while face to face.

24/08/2026
13:30-16:30

https://unison.org.uk/events/dealing-difficult-face-face-conversations



... telephone conversations

This online course, delivered by a specialist conflict management tutor from 2Resolve, via zoom is aimed at all members who have face to face conversations during their work day and may often be faced with tackling difficult conversations or topics, or who may have conversations with people who are aggressive or angry while face to face.

25//09/2026 - 09:30-12:30

https://unison.org.uk/events/dealing-difficult-telephone-calls

2Resolve

These sessions (as well as the introduction to neurodiversity) are delivered by 2Resolve, an Institute of Conflict Management Quality Award Centre. 2Resolve also bring specialist experience in special educational needs with a trainer who has significant experience working as a teacher and senior manager in SEN schools with residential provision.

For any further help booking onto this or any other National course please email:
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Preparing for change

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Whilst change is something that we face regularly, for many of us, it can be difficult to navigate both practically and emotionally. In addition to this big changes in the public services and uncertainty especially in areas such as local government mean that many of you may be facing challenging times ahead. The courses available over the next few pages are designed to help you navigate these changes and instil you with the confidence and skills you may need to advance through these changes successfully.



Coping with Change

This 3 hour UNISON workshop is suitable for all members who may find change difficult or how feel they may be facing upcoming or current changes in their workplace or homelife and want support in dealing with this.
At the end of this session participants should expect to:
• Understand what we mean by 'change'.
• Explore how change affects us.
• Identify the type of changes that may happen or are happening in our work places and what effect they may have.
• Explore strategies for coping with change.

13/08/2026 10:00 -13:00 https://unison.org.uk/events/coping-change

05/09/2026 13:00 -16:00 https://unison.org.uk/events/coping-change-0



Power to be you

This 1 hour UNISON webinar focuses on understanding and building confidence and self-esteem , exploring growth mindset and recognising personal achievements.

17/07/2026 13:00 -14:00 https://unison.org.uk/events/power-be-you/

For any further help booking onto this or any other National course please email:
l.organising@unison.co.uk
or call UNISON Direct on 08000857857

Preparing for change

UNISON College



Your skills your future

This bitesize 60 minute UNISON webinar, delivered via teams, is suitable for all members who want support in understanding how to recognise and utilise their skills and build self-confidence.

05/08/2026 16:00 -17:00

https://unison.org.uk/events/your-skills-your-future



Interview Skills

This 60-minute UNISON workshop is suitable for all members who want support in preparing for interviews.
At the end of this session participants should expect to identify key factors in preparing for an interview, understand the STAR technique for answering questions in interviews and explore example answers and how to construct their own.

If you are preparing for or experiencing change in your workplace don't forget to speak with your UNISON workplace Rep if you have worries or concerns over what might happen or you feel you need support navigating this.

If changes in your workplace may or have lead to financial hardship for you, you may want to reach out to the UNISON charity 'There for you'.

For any further help booking onto this or any other National course please email:
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Neurodivergence

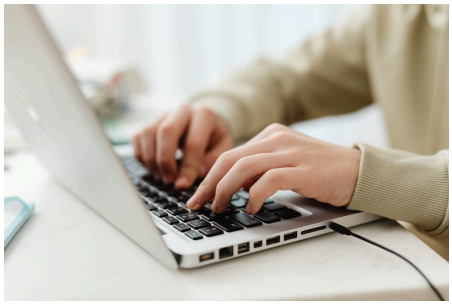


Intro to neurodiversity webinar

This online webinar is for all members interested in neurodiversity. It introduces common neurodivergent conditions like ADHD and ASC, explores strengths and challenges associated with neorodivergence, and offers practical tips for fostering understanding and inclusivity.

09/07/2026 - 08:00 -09:00

https://unison.org.uk/events/introduction-neurodiversity



Staff Skills academy+ onine courses

- ADHD Awareness Certification
- Understanding Autism Certification
- Dyslexia Awareness certification
- + many more courses available on the platform

Apply for your free licence to access this platform:

https://unison.org.uk/learning/staff-skills-academy

Courses for ULRs

UNISON College

These courses are for either our elected but untrained union learning reps or development courses for already trained union learning reps.



Stage 1 training : online

If you are an elected ULR who is yet to have completed their stage one training then this is the course you need. Without completing this you are not yet able to operate as a ULR in your branch/workplace. Apply using the link below but be aware that we will need to receive branch sign off for all applicants. This course is comprised of 4 x sessions taking place on consecutive Wednesdays starting from 23rd September. You must be able to attend all four dates,

23/09/2026 09:30 -13:00
30/09/2026 09:30 -13:00
07/10/2026 09:30 -13:00
14/10/2026 09:30 -13:00

https://unison.org.uk/events/union-learning-rep-training-stage-1



Development courses for trained ULRs

These sessions are part of a series of webinars for ULRs who have completed Stage 1 training. They are particularly useful for those actively promoting and delivering lifelong learning and development activities in their branch, as well as newly trained ULRs preparing to deliver their first learning events

08/07/2026 12:00 -13:00

Introduction to dyslexia

https://unison.org.uk/events/introduction-dyslexia-union-learning-rep-development-session

For any further help booking onto this or any other National course please email:
l.organising@unison.co.uk
or call UNISON Direct on 08000857857

ULRs continued



Learning cafe

If you are a Union learning rep (newly elected, newly trained or full of experience) you may wish to join us at our learning cafés for networking, updates and development opportunities.

At each Learning Café session we'll focus on a specific topic, with a presentation or workshop and plenty of space for discussion and the supportive sharing of issues, ideas, and best practice. There will also be time for general discussions and questions on whatever is on participants' minds.

14/07/2026 10:00 -11:30

09/09/2026 10:00 -11:30

please apply to be adde dto the list to receive updates and links for these cafes here:
https://forms.office.com/e/z8RqLDshHU

Get Involved in Learning



To find out more:

https://unison.org.uk/learning/supporting-learning

If you are as passionate about learning as we are - then you could very well make an excellent ULR and help others to access the learning that they need to succeed .

A learning rep is uniquely well placed to support colleagues learn the knowledge and skills they need. You have an insight into the particular training needs of the staff you work alongside. And those needs will determine how you decide to help.

More Member Learning

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Staff Skills academy+



For access to over 750 fully CPD certified online courses please apply for your free Staff Skills academy+ licence here curtesy of UNISON College:

https://unison.org.uk/learning/staff-skills-academy

Certified qualifications

Take advantage of one of UNISON's partner offers that give UNISON great discounts to enable members to gain recognised qualifications with:

• E-Careers: industry recognised qualifications with 20% discount for unison members

• National extension college: 20% of GCSE and a-Level qualifications and 50% off of Functional skills qualifications for UNISON members

https://unison.org.uk/learning/members/discounts

Regional Learning

Don't forget to see what great education is being offered by your regional education team.

Events | UNISON - the public service union

