

Dear student,

I hope this email finds you well and that you are enjoying the beginning of the new academic year.

I am writing to you today to update you on national industrial action affecting universities across the UK. You may have seen in the press that the trade union University and College Union (UCU) has recently concluded a national ballot and achieved a mandate for industrial action at 150 participating universities across the UK, including Queen Mary.

I understand this is worrying news. However, in the past industrial action has only affected a very small number of disciplinary areas and degree programmes at Queen Mary, and we expect any industrial action called as a result of this mandate to be similarly limited in its impact. In those disciplinary areas and degree programmes that are affected, we have worked with colleagues to protect your education and experience, by enabling colleagues choosing to take part in industrial action to focus solely on their educational activities, and to stop all other work where needed. This means we will ask all colleagues who take part in strike action (again, this will be in a limited number of disciplinary areas) to make up any missed education when they resume work, and anyone taking action short of a strike to undertake their educational activities, and deprioritise or stop all other work where needed.

I will write again when there is more information to share. In the meantime, if you have any questions about industrial action, including what the action is about, have a look at [the FAQs](#), or contact the [Student Enquiry Centre](#) or me at principal@qmul.ac.uk.

Best wishes,

Colin

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