

Dear student,

I hope you are well. I realise many of you will have recently finished your exams: I hope they went well, and that you are enjoying the beginning of semester 2.

Please do make sure you make time with extra- and co-curricular activity alongside your studies. There is so much to get involved with: have a look at our [social activities](#), and remember there is also a full programme of activities run by our [Careers Service](#). There is also a significant amount of [wellbeing support](#) provided by the University: have a look, take part in some of the activities to keep yourself well and if you are worried about anything, reach out for support. [Your Advisor](#) is your first port of call, and there is further support available from our [wellbeing team](#).

Industrial action

I'm sorry to tell you that the trade union UCU has informed us of further strike action, which will affect universities across the UK including Queen Mary. Strike action has been called on the following dates:

- Wednesday 1 February – one day
- Thursday 9 February and Friday 10 February – two days
- Tuesday 14 February, Wednesday 15 February and Thursday 16 February – three days
- Tuesday 21 February, Wednesday 22 February and Thursday 23 February – three days
- Monday 27 February, Tuesday 28 February, Wednesday 1 March and Thursday 2 March – four days
- Thursday 16 March and Friday 17 March – two days
- Monday 20 March, Tuesday 21 March and Wednesday 22 March – three days

I understand that this news regarding the industrial action is worrying. Industrial action normally only affects a very small number of our disciplinary areas and degree programmes at Queen Mary; the vast majority of our 32,000 students will be unaffected.

If education is missed, as a result of strike action or for any other reason, please fill in this [online form](#).

Faculties and Schools will be communicating with you very shortly if you are in an affected area. In those limited 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 when they return to work, and to stop all other work where needed. This means we ask all colleagues who take part in strike action to make up any missed education when they resume work. This approach fully respects the right of staff to take strike action, whilst focusing the resulting disruption away from you, our students, and on to all the University's non-educational activities.

We are continuing to work hard with our campus trade unions on areas of mutual interest and concern: if you would like to see some more information about this work, have a look at the [joint statement](#) between the University and UCU, and our [FAQs](#) which cover factual details about staff pay and pensions.

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,

Stephanie

Professor Stephanie Marshall

BA Hons, MA, D Phil, Dip. Man., PFHEA

Vice Principal (Education)

