**From:** Tom Lawson   
**Sent:** Thursday, September 14, 2023 9:37 AM  
**To:** NU All Academic Staff <[nuallacademicstaff@livenorthumbriaac.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:nuallacademicstaff@livenorthumbriaac.onmicrosoft.com)>  
**Subject:** UCU’s Marking and Assessment Boycott

Dear Colleagues

UCU’s marking and assessment boycott

In my last [email](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnorthumbria-cdn.azureedge.net%2F-%2Fmedia%2Fservices%2Fhuman-resources%2Findustrial-action%2Fa-message-from-tom-lawson-to-all-academic-colleagues---21-july-2023.docx%3Fmodified%3D20230721131714&data=05%7C01%7Clouise.johnson%40northumbria.ac.uk%7Cb94326b06d554d98d97708dbb5d27f73%7Ce757cfdd1f354457af8f7c9c6b1437e3%7C0%7C0%7C638303687899284179%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=oc11mlSG7CfazTYtDNmb0PepFFqvcb%2Be%2Fb3FI9ouZq0%3D&reserved=0) in July I shared with you that, despite UCU’s marking and assessment boycott, at Northumbria we had been able to successfully complete the assessment and marking of our graduating students’ work. All our graduating students received classified awards, and progression was confirmed for continuing students.

I explained that some progressing students in two academic departments had missing marks on their profile and they progressed on a no detriment basis but that the marking of their work would be required at some point in the future.

You are likely to be aware that nationally UCU has now called an end to its Marking and Assessment Boycott. This means that colleagues who did not compete their marking and assessment and it remains outstanding are now required to do so.

New deadlines for the marking are:

* Levels 5 and 7: Friday 13 October
* Levels 3 and 4: Friday 10 November

Heads of Department will support colleagues to complete the marking by adjusting their workloads over the coming weeks. Colleagues who have marking outstanding, have workloads that are flexible enough to accommodate additional marking over this timescale, but evidently some other activities will not be able to be prioritised over this period. Our first priority must be to get marks and feedback to our students.

The national picture re industrial action

UCU’s current mandate expires on 30 September and we have been notified of five days of strike action at Northumbria from Monday 25 to Friday 29 September. There will also be another national ballot of UCU members, which seeks support for both strike action and action short of a strike, which will run from 19 September to 3 November. The September strike days and forthcoming ballot follow salary increases of between 5% and 8% implemented in two stages between August 2022 and August 2023.

Participation in strike action later this month

Colleagues are invited to advise the University in advance of their [intention to participate in strike action](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.office.com%2Fpages%2Fresponsepage.aspx%3Fid%3D3c9X5zUfV0Svj3ycaxQ349I-pQMP2WJLpruHqY6aI51UQzFQTkY4NVJZSldOODhaTzdUM0E5VDNMRSQlQCN0PWcu&data=05%7C01%7Clouise.johnson%40northumbria.ac.uk%7Cb94326b06d554d98d97708dbb5d27f73%7Ce757cfdd1f354457af8f7c9c6b1437e3%7C0%7C0%7C638303687899284179%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yfK%2BAgvUsXmZEnG3eHNKj%2Bup11CfdgCRIbtp%2FS2HNjg%3D&reserved=0) however this is not mandatory. Colleagues are required to notify the University on each day they participate in strike action in the usual way, by completing the [online notification of participation in strike action](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.office.com%2Fpages%2Fresponsepage.aspx%3Fid%3D3c9X5zUfV0Svj3ycaxQ349I-pQMP2WJLpruHqY6aI51UQkw2NU9ZRUtWQVBSMENVTFNXVFlYUVRYWCQlQCN0PWcu&data=05%7C01%7Clouise.johnson%40northumbria.ac.uk%7Cb94326b06d554d98d97708dbb5d27f73%7Ce757cfdd1f354457af8f7c9c6b1437e3%7C0%7C0%7C638303687899284179%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=wBppKnIrSwxYK04qI1dx2gfZqv1j2VnV2Z4UfOiKfbM%3D&reserved=0) at the earliest opportunity and by no later than their first day back at work.

It is regrettable that we continue to face industrial action as an institution with a good track record in relation to our gender pay gap, our minimal use of casual contracts as well as sector-leading, flexible employment terms. It is disappointing that the timing distracts us from preparing to welcome new students and await the return of continuing students to Northumbria.  I will continue to provide updates as the situation develops.

All best

Tom

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(he/him)

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Latest Publication: [The Palgrave Handbook of Britain and the Holocaust](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.palgrave.com%2Fgp%2Fbook%2F9783030559311&data=05%7C01%7Clouise.johnson%40northumbria.ac.uk%7Cb94326b06d554d98d97708dbb5d27f73%7Ce757cfdd1f354457af8f7c9c6b1437e3%7C0%7C0%7C638303687899284179%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=XptPS7ZEdDWRo6WUdyDCeIRfcyF7WnKsQwwp8COJ078%3D&reserved=0)

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