Teachers' Union of Ireland
Aontas Múinteoirí Éireann

TUI Strike – Wednesday 14th & 21st October, 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

for members in Technological Universities and Institutes of Technology

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TUI Strike – Wednesday 14th & 21st October, 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

for members in Technological Universities and Institutes of Technology

1. Who is required to engage in strike action?
All TUI members in all grades in Technological Universities/Institutes of Technology

2. Will my employer be advised?
All employers will receive the required notification.

3. Will I lose pay?
There will be a loss of pay for each strike day.

4. Will the day be considered as a break in service for members?
No.

5. Why are members striking?
Members are striking following the failure of the Government and our employers to enter meaningful negotiations on a successor pay agreement that ensures an acceptable increase in pay to cover the period of July to December 2026 and acceptable increases in pay for 2027 and/or the duration of any successor agreement.

6. I have no timetabled hours on the 14th and 21st October. Am I still on strike?
Yes. If a member is not expected to be on the premises on the day, for whatever reason (e.g., job share, part-time, no lectures/classes timetabled), s/he is still on strike and should advise the employer to that effect.

7. I have no timetabled hours on the 14th and 21st October. Am I required to attend for picket duty?
You are required to attend for picket duty if, in normal circumstances, you would attend the University/Institute on that day. If you would not normally be in attendance on this day, you are encouraged to attend for picket duty. If this proves difficult due to particular personal circumstances, please consult with your Branch Officers.

8. I am seconded full-time to another organisation. Am I on strike on the 14th and 21st October?
No. You work as normal for the other organisation on that day **unless that organisation is a public sector body that will be subject to strike action.**

9. I am employed by a Technological University/Institute of Technology, and I am lecturing/teaching abroad. Am I on strike on the 14th and 21st October?

Yes, as member employed by an Irish based employer, you should comply with the Union directive. You may seek further advice depending on the situation with regard to the country in which you teach.

Non-Teaching Activities

10. I normally take the university/institute football/camogie team for practice/matches in the evenings. Can I do this on the 14th and 21st October?
No. Alternative activities (e.g., in-service, extra-curricular, or co-curricular activities, off-site work-related activities etc.) are covered by the strike and are prohibited on the day. Even though the pickets will end at the normal university/institute closing time, the strike is in place for 24 hours.

11. I teach night classes in the university/institute. Can I still take those classes?
No. The strike lasts 24 hours.

12. I am supposed to be involved in a university/institute trip/event on that day. What should I do?
If the trip/event begins and ends within the 24 hours of the 14th or 21st October, the strike action prohibits you from participating.

If the trip/event extends beyond the 24-hour period - either because it commences on 13th / 20th October or earlier or because it extends to 15th / 22nd October or later, then it is not prohibited by the strike action, and you may participate in the trip/event.

13. If I am on a university/institute trip/event that is not prohibited, will I be deducted strike pay?
Yes, for the 14th / 21st October.

14. I have a meeting on/off-site on 14th /21st Oct. Can I attend?

No. A TUI member cannot be involved in any kind of meeting related to her/his work as an employee of the university/institute on the 14th/ 21st October.

15. I am scheduled for Continuous Professional Development (CPD) on 14th / 21st Oct. Can I attend?

No. A TUI member cannot be involved in any kind of meeting related to her/his work as an employee of the university/institute.

Picketing

16. What is the purpose of a picket?

The purpose of the picket is to

- indicate to members of the TUI that there is an official strike and that they should not go to work.
- advise other employees that there is an official dispute in the workplace.
- alert the general public to the fact that there is an official dispute and the reason for it.

17. When should the picket begin and end?

Picketing should commence 30 minutes before the normal opening time of the university/institute and should remain in place until normal university/institute closing time. However, the strike lasts for 24 hours – from midnight on 13th / 20th October to midnight on 14th /21st October.

18. Do I have to picket?

Exemptions from picket duty can be sought for genuine reasons only (e.g., medical). Even if exempt from picket duty, you are still on strike. You should consult with your Branch Officers in relation to this.

19. How long will I be on picket duty?
This will be decided locally by the Branch Officers and will take into consideration variables such as the number of members in the workplace, the number of campuses/entrances, the length of the university/institute day etc.

20. Can I enter the workplace at all during the day?
No. For the duration of the strike members must remain completely off the premises including carparks of the employer – tea breaks or "bathroom breaks" must be taken elsewhere. Please be considerate when parking off-site.

21. How many people should be on a picket at any given time?
Mass picketing is illegal. Logically, the size of a picket depends on the number of members in the particular workplace. The main entrance to the workplace should be covered. Consideration should be given to increasing the numbers on the picket lines at specific strategic times of the day, e.g., morning, lunchtime, and evening rush hour etc.

22. Where can the picket be placed?
Picketing should be at, not on/in, the place of work. Members on picket duty must not impede. anyone's entrance to or exit from the workplace. Do not impede anyone accessing the building! e.g., students, parents of students, members of other Unions not on strike, non-union members (who are entitled to attend for their normal work), delivery services, emergency services etc. It is expected that all public sector unions will be on strike so you may have colleagues from other unions also picketing various entrances etc.

23. How will I know when to picket?
Picket duty will be organised by your Branch Officers. There should be a picket at all times during university/institute opening times – a roster will be organised locally by the Branch Officers.

23. Who can join a picket?
TUI members in the workplace can join a picket. In addition, an elected Branch Officer may join any picket line within her/his own branch, and a member of the Executive Committee may join any picket line within her/his area. TUI Head Office personnel may visit any TUI picket line. A record/sign-in sheet of those undertaking picket duty should be retained in each workplace.

24. I am a retired TUI member/member of the Retired Members' Association (RMA), can I join the picket?
No. Picketing must be by members who are employees of the university/institute in question and union officials/elected representatives (see above). You may, however, show your support for your colleagues who are on strike by briefly visiting and/or supporting them, but you may not join the picket line. TUI would welcome the support of retired members during the strike.

25. Will there be placards?
Yes. Placards will be available and you will be advised on the local collection points by your Area Representative and/or Branch Officers.

Other Unions/Non-Unionised

26. There are members of another Union/s in my workplace. How does this affect the strike?
It is expected that members of all public sector unions will be on strike on 14th and 21st October.

27. Have other Unions been advised of the strike?
The ICTU and other Unions in your workplace will receive the required notification.

28. There are non-unionised workers in my university/institute. How does this affect the strike?
Workers in the workplace who are not in a union may pass a picket.

The Industrial Relations Act, 1990, allows for members of a union who have been balloted to engage in strike action. Members of the TUI have been balloted for this industrial action and therefore they can engage in strike action without fear of disciplinary action by the employer. Anyone who is not in the TUI may be deemed to be in breach of their contract if they do not present for work on the 14th / 21st October and their employer may take disciplinary action against them or deem the day to have been a break in service.

Non-unionised employees should be advised of the dispute. If they ask TUI members for guidance as to what to do on the day of the strike they should be referred to their employer. If eligible for membership of the TUI can be encouraged to apply online for membership of the TUI. Once they apply online, if eligible for TUI membership they automatically become members of the TUI

29. My colleague now wants to join TUI. At what point will s/he be considered a member?
For the purposes of taking Industrial Action a person will be considered a member providing s/he has completed and returned an application form before 14th October either:

- Online
- To a Branch Officer
- To a member of the Workplace Committee

30. My colleague has just joined the Union, is s/he on strike?
Yes.

What happens if a TUI member does not take strike action?

Breaking a strike is a most serious offence for a member of a union. It will, result in unworthy conduct charges against the member.

Members on picket duty are obliged to report any member passing a picket or entering the workplace. Failure to do so is itself a serious offence and is also liable to lead to unworthy conduct charges.

A strike breaker should be reported to the Branch Officers without delay. Note any member breaking the picket, record the time and note the name of any witnesses. Also note any member known to be in the workplace who might have gone unbeknown to the picket.

I have more questions, who should I contact?

You should contact your Branch Officers/Area Representative in the first instance. The contact details for all Area Representatives are available in the TUI Diary and Handbook. Alternatively, you can email tui@tui.ie