



Simon Weller

TUC diploma in contemporary trade unionism

Aims of the course

The aims of the diploma course are:

- to help the learner become more effective as a workplace representative
- to promote an understanding of the trade union values and policies
- to deepen and extend the capacities of learners, preparing them for union officer posts or higher education opportunities
- to widen and deepen understanding of trade union and workplace issues and offer up to date details of new developments
- to develop personal/study skills, the ability to work collectively and improve the confidence of learners to study at a higher level.

Who is the course for?

The course is designed for experienced trade union representatives – the key link between the workplace and the wider union. It focuses on the early, present and potential role of trade unions, and develops the values and skills needed for higher level study and activism.

This TUC diploma course is part of a suite of courses which also includes the diploma in occupational health and safety and the diploma in employment law.

How long is the course?

The course is organised:

- as a one year day-release course (1 day per week, for 36 weeks spread over 3 terms); or
- as a one year half day and evening course (for 36 weeks spread over 3 terms); or
- as a two year evening course (1 evening per week, for 72 weeks spread over 6 terms)
- as an online course for union reps who need a more flexibly delivered programme. Union reps will access the course via the internet and work interactively on tasks with their tutor and other participants.

This is a flexible programme and trade union education centres may have developed different arrangements to suit reps locally.



Mark Thompson

Accreditation

The TUC diploma is accredited by the National Open College Network and is divided into three core units and four study skills units.

Three subject units (27 OCN credits)

The development of trade unions in Britain (9 OCN credits)

This unit includes:

- **economic, social and political context 1700-1997**
 - changes in state policy
 - emergence of the women's movement
 - trade unions and the state
- **the impact of industrialisation on working people and the origins of trade unions**
 - industrialisation and working people
 - the impact of industrialisation on women
 - the development of trade unions, protest and resistance
- **trade union experience 1850-1997**
 - changes in trade union strategies and tactics
 - trade unions and the law
 - syndicalism
 - trade union achievements
 - women and black workers in unions

Trade unions today (9 OCN credits)

This unit includes:

- **trends in trade union organisation**
 - mapping trade unions and comparing results
- **trade unions and the economy**
 - trade union trends
 - influencing change
- **globalisation**
 - trade unions and globalisation
 - private sector
 - public sector
- **Europe**
 - how European law is made
 - proposals for European directives
 - trade unions and monetary union

- **trade unions and the law**
 - workers' rights
 - how British law is made
 - trade union business and the law
- **collective bargaining**
 - bargaining structures
 - the bargaining agenda
 - drawing up
 - progressing and testing a claim
- **models of organisation**
 - organisational structures
 - how unions influence
 - research on media influence
 - trade union messages

The future of trade unions (9 OCN credits)

This unit includes:

- **models of trade unionism**
 - new unionism
 - social partnerships
 - organising unionism
 - social movement trade unionism
 - union democracy and representation
 - union leadership
- **European and international trade unionism**
 - European works councils
 - trade unions and Europe
 - trade unions internationally
- **Challenges facing unions**
 - membership and recruitment
 - labour market trends
 - the future of collective bargaining
 - globalisation
 - multinational companies
- **starting points for strategies**
 - models of trade unionism
 - organising internationally

The study skills units (21 OCN credits)

The study skills units consist of:

Communication and study skills (6 OCN credits)

- read and respond to written materials
- produce written materials
- prepare and make a presentation to a group
- take part in discussions and work collectively

Research project (9 OCN credits)

- project planning
- research skills
- presenting a project

Working with figures (3 OCN credits)

- statistical and mathematical techniques to collect and record data
- sources of data
- presenting numerical information

Information communication technology (3 OCN credits)

- prepare and input data
- display and present information
- present data
- use database, word processing and spreadsheet applications

Entry requirements

Union representatives who wish to take this course should have:

- **previously attended the union reps Stage 1 and Stepping up – the advanced course for union representatives courses; or**
- **obtained 30 OCN credits, with a minimum of 15 credits at level 2; or**
- **obtained a suitable equivalent to the two categories above, through their own union's courses or from elsewhere.**



Simon Weller

Qualifications and progression

NOCN diploma for trade union representatives in contemporary trade unionism

To achieve this qualification participants are required to:

- successfully complete all seven modules
- gain 48 credits (at level 2 for level 2 diploma or 27 credits at level 3 plus 21 credits at level 2 or 3 for level 3 diploma).

Learners who do not achieve the above will be awarded OCN certification for units achieved. All learners completing the course will receive a TUC certificate of attendance.

Are there any fees to pay?

TUC Education will pay your course fees, provided that your nomination for the course is approved by your union. Some important reference publications may not be supplied, and you may wish to discuss with your union any arrangements for funding the cost of these materials.

Can I get time off to learn?

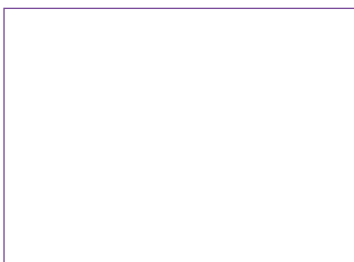
Union representatives who wish to attend TUC courses in working time should first ask their employer for time off with pay. The Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 and the Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations 1977 give accredited union and safety representatives a legal right to reasonable time off with pay to attend courses approved by the TUC or their union. Guidance towards establishing what constitutes reasonable time off can be found in the ACAS Code of Practice. Representatives who find difficulty in obtaining paid time off to attend TUC courses should seek assistance from their senior union representative or full time union officer.

Can I get time off for online courses?

Online learning should not be seen as an alternative to paid release from work. The law still applies, whether learning takes place away from work or in work, at a workstation or in a company learning centre.

Further information

Details of courses in your area, contact your regional education officer



National information about the course, contact:

Liz Rees

Trade Union Education
Manager
Congress House
Great Russell Street
London WC1B 3LS
tel 020 7079 6923
email lrees@tuc.org.uk

Jackie Williams

Trade Union Education
Officer
Congress House
Great Russell Street
London WC1B 3LS
tel 020 7079 6924
email jwilliams@tuc.org.uk