Postgraduates Who Teach

POLICY RESPONSIBILITY: Education Officer
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The Student Union Notes:
1. Significant numbers of PGR students are employed as Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTA’s) at the University of Sheffield, to the extent that many modules could not be delivered without them.
2. GTA’s are members of staff and should be treated as such.
3. GTA’s are particularly vulnerable to ‘casualisation’.
4. The University and College Union (UCU) has done excellent work on highlighting the casualisation of postgraduates who teach as part of its Anti-Casualisation campaign and as part of its mission to secure decent terms and conditions of employment for members.
5. NUS and UCU have produced a Postgraduate Employment Charter (see: http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/resources/open/postgraduate/Postgraduate-Employment-Charter-2014/) which provides excellent guidelines on what postgraduates should reasonably be able to expect from management if employed as a GTA or similar teaching role.
6. The Students Union and Sheffield UCU share joint responsibility for representing, lobbying and campaigning for the rights and interests of PGR students.

The Student Union Resolves:
1. To continue to develop close relations with Sheffield UCU
2. To actively encourage all postgraduates who teach to join UCU in order to ensure they are fully represented as students and workers
3. To lobby and campaign for the university to implement the Postgraduate Charter IN FULL

POLICY HISTORY:

The above policy was passed by Students’ Union Council in February 2015.

This policy was renewed for 12 months in November 2017 with a view to bringing revised policy during this academic year.