

UNISON East Midlands

Links to just some of the learning resources available online

During periods of uncertainty and anxiety many people turn to education to help them find a way through. With our classroom courses temporarily halted we wanted to create a list of online learning and support that's available. Most of these are free unless stated otherwise.

Below is a brief list but there are lots more out there. You will also find details of UNISON's Learning Grants to support members that are paying for their own courses.

Permanent sites with changing programmes



[Future Learn](#)

An online learning site with free courses provided by top Universities and Specialist organisations. 100's of topics including business & management, literature, healthcare, programming & much more. Courses are usually just a few weeks long and only a few hours a week.



OpenLearn

[Open Learn with the OU](#)

The home of free learning from the Open University. Not just courses, there are articles, videos, games and much more. Anybody can study with 900+ courses between 1–100 hours long. Science, maths, languages, healthcare etc.



[Learn My Way](#) - basic computing

A brilliant website with free courses for beginners, helping you develop digital skills to make the most of the online world. You can learn how to use your device (computer, tablet etc), use the internet & set up an e-mail.



[Alison](#)

Alison.com has over 1000 courses available. From Japanese to IT management. Excel to Supporting Children with Special Educational Needs and Basic English Grammar to Cellular physiology.



[Leicester College – Distance Learning](#)

Free Level 2 courses in 24 subjects. This includes Working with Children, Health & Social Care, and Business Admin. In depth courses range from 8-16 weeks and are certified through the NCFE.

Please note that there is a charge if you do not complete the course.



[National Numeracy Challenge](#)

UNISON Works closely with the National Numeracy Challenge, a website-based resource where you can check your maths levels and then brush up your skills. It's maths for your daily life.

Managing your money and understanding percentages rather than algebra!



[Learning@home with unionlearn](#)

The TUC's Education site has lots of short 'e-notes' for you to try. From Menopause in the Workplace to Understanding Universal Credit.

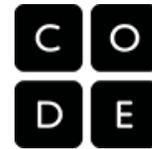


[UNISON E Notes](#)

UNISON has a host of resources and support for members. This includes online short courses relevant for UNISON members and activists.



Similar to FutureLearn, edX is a US-based site that hosts over 2500 university-level courses (Harvard, MIT etc).



[Coding using Minecraft](#)

How about something very different? Code.org® is a US nonprofit aiming to expand access to computer science and increasing participation by women and underrepresented youth. This activity uses Minecraft to teach coding skills.

Limited places or time limited – these courses will update regularly



[Staff Skills Academy](#)

UNISON has partnered with SSA to offer a limited number of places to access their 550 courses. All courses are CPD certified. Project Preparation, Assertiveness, Art Therapy, Safeguarding & more.



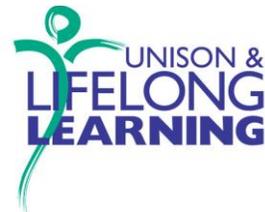
[Nottingham Uni - April - July](#)

UoN have organised a series of 34 free online discussion classes. Covers a number of Coronavirus subjects but also 'Coping With Home Schooling', Family Tree and Growing your own Greens.

Support for Learners



Futures – National Careers Service



[UNISON – Grants, courses and support](#)

Futures are The National Careers Service for the E Midlands. They will continue to support adult learners by providing 1-2-1 support by phone or via Skype. They are able to offer free online courses (ILM Team Leading, Accounting etc) as well as careers advice. Telephone referrals: 0800 917 94 19 Email referrals: NationalCareersServiceNCC@futuresforyou.com

If you are paying for your own learning then it's important to be aware that UNISON's bursaries and grants scheme can really help. Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis, below Masters degree level, with a larger grant for Open University courses. This site has lots more, including extra courses and worth checking regularly.



Inspiring POSITIVE CHANGE through digital skills

[Digital Unite](#)

Digital Unite aims to improve the digital confidence of the UK. Coronavirus has proven that there's whole mass of people left-out. These guides form part of that support and provide help on getting started.



We pride ourselves on the free courses available to members. We've obviously halted these in the current climate but we hope to return as soon as it is safe. In the meantime have a look at our regional programme for courses later in the year: <https://eastmidlands.unison.org.uk/members/>

In addition to the regional programme each county has its own learning offer. Before this enforced absence Nottinghamshire was the only county to have advertised it's 2020-21 learning programme. The other East Midlands counties will be published as soon as it is possible. Keep checking the site for details of 'learning near you': <https://eastmidlands.unison.org.uk/learning-near-you/>

We look forward to seeing you on a UNISON course as soon as possible.