

Online Rep Training – some guidance for Wales

In most cases, the detail in these courses is a good match for what would ordinarily be delivered by a Trade Union Studies tutor in Wales. However, education is completely devolved; meaning Welsh Government are in charge of all elements of education in Wales, including for adults. Therefore if you plan to complete the Union Learning Reps 1 or 2 there are some differences to look out for.

Here are some examples:

- Throughout the online ULR courses you will see references to Unionlearn. They are the team within the TUC in England who deliver on learning and skills and whilst we don't call them Unionlearn in Wales, we have staff who deliver on the same priorities. Where you see Unionlearn, think Wales TUC.
- Union Learning Fund or ULF. This is an easy one – we have this fund in Wales but we call it the Wales Union Learning Fund – WULF, and have Wales TUC staff to support projects in the same way our Unionlearn colleagues do in England.
- The online ULR courses provide lots of examples and case studies. Whilst these are interesting and helpful, you'll notice that none of them are Welsh. We have plenty of our own, though – you can view some of them on the Wales TUC website.
- The online courses mention survey results and stats to make the case for learning. These are relevant and important, but remember that they only reflect surveys carried out in England. We may well get the same results here in Wales, but probably best not to quote them to your employer during negotiations, just in case.

- Quick Reads produce short, snappy books for emergent readers or those who have lost the reading habit, and promoting them is a great way to make yourself known as a ULR. The online course shows you where to find them, but there are also Welsh language titles available. You can find those on the Reading Wales website.
- Finally – TUC Policies. You'll probably spot the mention of TUC Congress as the place where the policies and priorities of the TUC's work are agreed. This is correct, but don't forget we have our own Wales TUC Congress for work that is in areas devolved to Wales.

In general, the online materials for Union Learning Reps are helpful, clear and supportive. These are just a few differences we thought we ought to point out, but don't let it put you off completing these important courses. And of course, if you have any questions or queries please get in touch with us at wtuc@tuc.org.uk or by ringing 02920 347010 (we can still answer the phone even though we aren't in the office).

