



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

London, Sunday 15 February 2026

STUDENT GROUP CLAIM ANNOUNCES SETTLEMENT OF UCL CLAIM

We are pleased to announce that Student Group Claim members have agreed a settlement with UCL. The settlement represents a positive end to UCL students' court case where they sought to obtain financial compensation from the university for the periods when teaching was moved online and libraries were closed during the pandemic.

<p>Shimon Goldwater, partner at Asserson solicitors, which jointly represented the claimants suing UCL, said:</p> <p><i>"I am very pleased that our clients have been able to achieve a commercial settlement of their claims with UCL. Student Group Claim will now turn its attention to claimants who attended other universities during the pandemic."</i></p>	<p>Adam Zoubir, partner at Harcus Parker solicitors, which jointly represented the claimants suing UCL, said:</p> <p><i>"I am delighted that this settlement provides a resolution for our clients who attended UCL during the pandemic and had their classes moved online. This is the end of the claim against UCL, but we continue to represent tens of thousands of students who were at other universities during Covid."</i></p>
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STUDENTS' LEGAL TEAM

Solicitors:

ASSERSON SOLICITORS, partner: Shimon Goldwater

HARCUS PARKER SOLICITORS, partner: Adam Zoubir

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STUDENT GROUP CLAIM PLANS COURT ACTION AGAINST 36 UNIVERSITIES

[Student Group Claim](#) continues to work with more than 170,000 students who were at universities other than UCL¹ during Covid seeking fair financial compensation.

During the pandemic, students did not receive what they paid for. They paid for in-person teaching and access to university facilities like libraries and studios, but during Covid, their teaching was moved online and facilities were closed for lengthy periods.

This was the case at universities across the UK. Student Group Claim is helping tens of thousands of students who attended the universities of Bristol, Cardiff, Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle, KCL, LSE and many other institutions. In total Student Group Claim represents more than 170,000 potential claimants.

Under English law, where a consumer pays for a service but is provided with a different service which has a lower value, they are entitled to compensation. This means they should receive damages reflecting the difference between the market value of the service they paid for and the market value of the service they actually received. Fees for online degree courses are typically 25-50% less than fees for traditional in-person courses. Universities should have paid that difference in value to students as compensation during the pandemic, but without exception, despite students' complaints, petitions and pleas, they refused to do so.

Universities often rely on clauses in their standard contracts with students which they say entitle them to continue charging full tuition fees even if they did not provide in-person teaching. But such clauses are unfair to students and therefore under the Consumer Rights Act the universities cannot rely on them. They must pay students fair financial compensation for teaching moved online; Student Group Claim is seeking compensation for students through court claims against universities which have refused to pay out.

<p>Adam Zoubir, partner at Harcus Parker solicitors, said:</p> <p><i>"Students who were at university during Covid, had a very rough ride, but they have received no compensation or tuition fee reductions. They now find themselves saddled with eye-watering debt from fees paid for an educational experience that they did not receive. We are helping them seek fair financial compensation through the courts."</i></p>	<p>Shimon Goldwater, partner at Asserson solicitors, said:</p> <p><i>"UK undergraduates at university during the pandemic borrowed money at ridiculous interest rates to fund courses which were ruined by online teaching and closed facilities. Student Group Claim is helping students challenge universities to do what they should have done during Covid: pay students compensation for not providing them with the in-person teaching for which they paid."</i></p>
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¹ See separate press release today regarding the settlement of the UCL claim.

Anyone who was at university during the pandemic, particularly in the 2020-21 academic year, could have a substantial claim for compensation. To find out more and join the group, people should just visit StudentGroupClaim.co.uk.

A deadline is approaching, because claims relating to the 2020-21 academic year, the worst-affected by Covid, will begin to expire under the Limitation Act starting from September 2026. People who were at university that year and had their teaching moved online should visit StudentGroupClaim.co.uk as soon as possible to sign up for a claim in good time before September.

Student Group Claim is now planning action starting with the following **36 universities**, each of which has been sent a pre-action claim letter with information about the proposed claim: University of Bath, University of Birmingham, Birmingham City University, University of Bristol, Cardiff University, City St George's, University of London, Coventry University, De Montfort University, University of East Anglia, University of Exeter, Imperial College London, University of Kent, King's College London, University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett University, University of Liverpool, Liverpool John Moores University, London School of Economics and Political Science, Loughborough University, The University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, Newcastle University, University of Nottingham, Nottingham Trent University, Northumbria University, University of Portsmouth, Queen Mary University of London, University of Reading, University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University, University of Southampton, Swansea University, University of the Arts London, University of The West of England, University of Warwick and University of York.

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