

The logo for unionlearn, featuring the word "unionlearn" in a lowercase, blue, sans-serif font. The "u" and "n" are connected, and the "l" is a simple vertical bar. The "e" and "a" are also connected.

unionlearn

with the TUC

A teal-colored background with rounded corners. In the background, there is a blurred photograph of three people (two men and one woman) looking at a screen or document together. The text is overlaid on this background.

Learning with the Unions in the U.K.

Tony Saunders
Union Development Coordinator

Trade Union Congress

- The Umbrella Organisation for the Trade Unions In the U.K.
- Founded in 1868
- One of its first aims was to improve the technical skills of workers
- Today there are 54 unions affiliated to the TUC
- Represents 6.4 million workers
- In 2006 Unionlearn was established to promote and support learning opportunities

2 Main functions of unionlearn

- **Supporting union activists to gain the skills needed to operate within their trade unions**
- **Supporting union members to access a wide range of learning opportunities to meet both employment and personal development needs**

Supporting union activists to gain the skills needed to operate within their trade unions

- Accredited training for union representatives delivered by a network of Trade Union Education Units throughout the Country. Funded through the the Learning and Skills Council (LSC)
- Affiliate unions offer training and support to their activists, this can also attract LSC funding

Supporting union members to access a wide range of learning opportunities to meet both employment and personal development needs

- **The Role of the Union Learning Representative in supporting Learning**
- **Union Learning Fund and regional funds provided by Government agencies to support projects**
- **Unions running their own programmes of learning such as Unison's "Return to Learn" programme**

Supporting Government Initiatives

- **The Skills Pledge**
- **Train to Gain**
- **Sector Skills Councils**

- **Skills for Life**
- **Apprenticeships**
- **Higher Level Learning**