

Motion to Oppose the Defence Universities Alliance

Cardiff UCU notes:

- The Defence Universities Alliance (DUA) is a new Ministry of Defence initiative launched in April 2026. The alliance aims to build a “more strategic relationship between defence and academia” with three core objectives: advancing defence research; promoting defence careers; and fostering industry partnerships.
- By signing the DUA charter, universities commit to dedicating resources, research capacity, and career services to advancing military technology and encouraging students into militarised industries. (<https://demilitariseeducation.com/what-we-do/blog/defence-universities-aliance-statement>)
- Cardiff University has resisted demands by students and staff to ban arms companies from attending careers fairs (despite having an ethical careers policy which bans fossil fuel companies). They have also held research partnerships with various defence companies including BAE, Thales, Rolls Royce, and Airbus and they recently signed up to the DUA charter.
- The UK arms industry has supported wars in Iran and Lebanon, as well as the genocide in Palestine. The death toll in Palestine since 7th October 2023 has now surpassed 73,000.
- The DUA links to a wider government plan to stimulate the economy through “defence” spending.
(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/68bea3fc223d92d088f01d69/Defence_Industrial_Strategy_2025_-_Making_Defence_an_Engine_for_Growth.pdf)

Cardiff UCU believes:

- The DUA represents a dangerous militarisation of universities that undermines their ability to pursue knowledge free from corporate and military influence.
- This alliance threatens academic freedom by redirecting research priorities away from urgent social, environmental, and humanitarian challenges toward military applications. It would also compromise institutional independence and create ethical conflicts for researchers and students whose values oppose war and militarisation.
- At a time when devastating conflicts continue across Congo, Sudan, Ukraine, Palestine, Iran, Lebanon and beyond, universities should not deepen their entanglement with industries that profit from violence, displacement, occupation, and human suffering.

Cardiff UCU resolves:

- To oppose DUA membership and advocate for demilitarisation.
- To write a letter to University management demanding that they remove the University from the DUA charter.
- To support and join anti-war protests and other initiatives, namely organised by Cardiff University students, to pressure University management to make an anti-war stance.