

Events and Benefits Brochure

2025 –2026



The Friends of GFTUET scheme is our way of bringing together people who care about trade union education. People who know how powerful it can be when workers have the time, space and support to learn, reflect and build confidence together.

Since the scheme launched in 2024, our Friends have helped us reach more people, run more courses, and grow a brilliant, thoughtful community around our work.

This booklet sets out what's coming up in 2025/26, including events, online sessions and ways to get more involved. Whether you've been with us from the beginning or are just getting started, we're really glad to have you with us.

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A Message from Our General Secretary

Dear Friend,

Since the launch of the Friends of GFTUET scheme, we have been overwhelmed by the commitment and solidarity shown by supporters across the movement. Your involvement has made a real difference helping us expand access to education, strengthen our programmes, and support trade unionists at every stage of their journey.

Friends are at the heart of our educational work. You help us deliver timely, relevant, and empowering content to activists facing the complex realities of today's workplaces from bargaining over AI to developing confident new leaders. This brochure sets out the opportunities and events available to you in the year ahead. I hope you'll find it useful and that you'll stay involved, stay informed, and continue building with us.

In solidarity,

Gawain Little
General Secretary

Our Mission & Values

The GFTUET exists to support high-quality, independent, and progressive trade union education. We believe education is fundamental to building a democratic and empowered movement. Our programme is built on the values of equality, solidarity, critical thinking, and collective growth.

We deliver education that is:

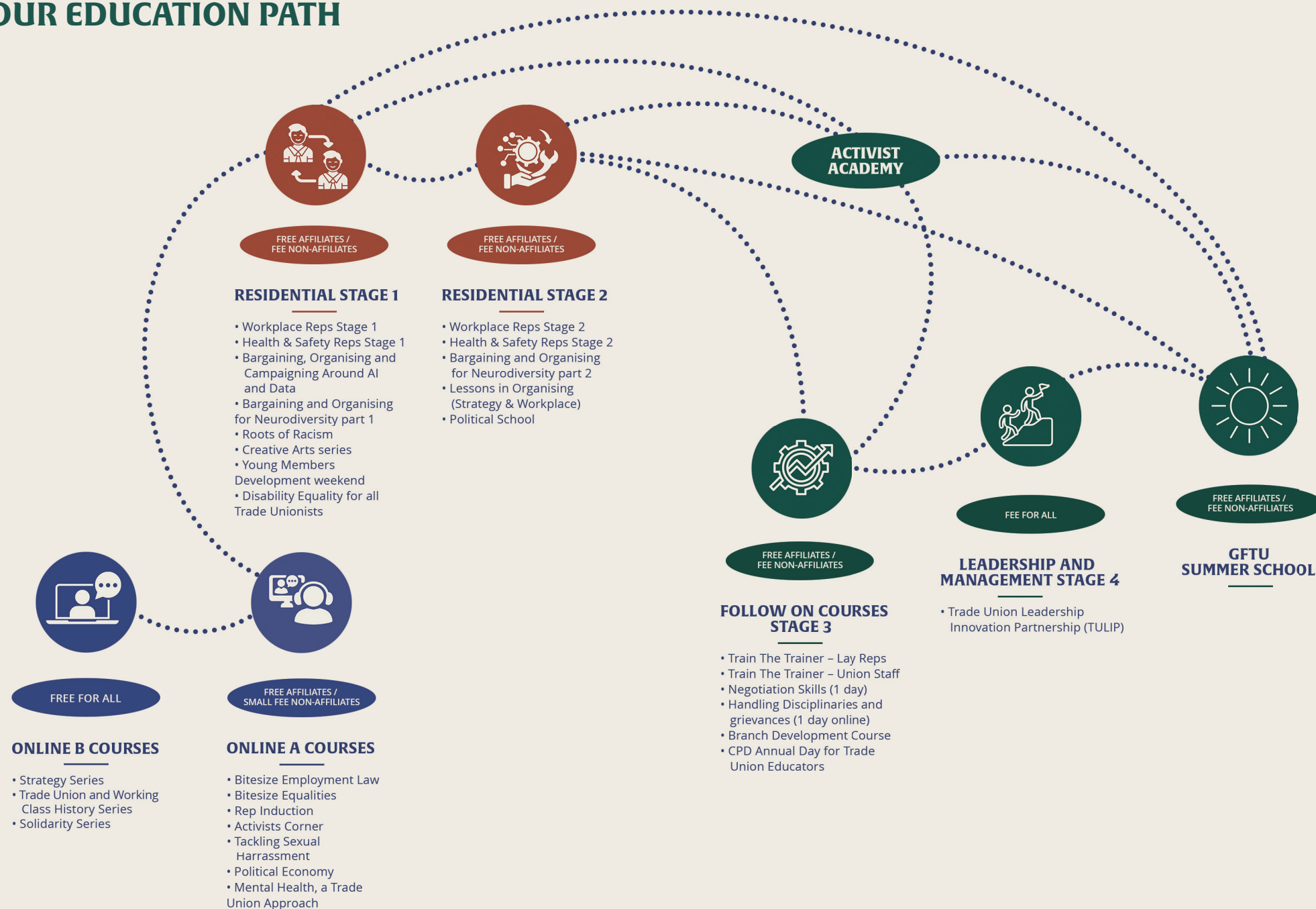
- Political and analytical, helping participants understand the structural causes of injustice and inequality.
 - Practical and skills-based, enabling union reps and activists to organise, bargain, and lead effectively.
 - Accessible, with a strong commitment to online, in-person, residential and hybrid formats.
 - Responsive, with timely courses that address pressing challenges from digital transformation to discrimination in the workplace.
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Our mission is to support union members and leaders to build confidence, strategy, and vision for their work.

We do this by combining political education, practical tools, and a deeply rooted culture of care.



OUR EDUCATION PATH



Friends of GFTUET

As a Friend of GFTUET, you will receive:

- Free access to all online courses
- One in-person course per year (Gold Friends only)
- Discounted access to selected conferences and content
- Invitation to our virtual Town Hall (with the General Secretary and GFTU President, held every six months)
- Invitation to our annual in-person Friends Get-Together (March each year, marking the anniversary of the scheme)
- Access to our GFTUET Open Day, which will also be open to affiliates and prospective affiliates
- A 'Letter from a Learner', sharing real experiences from those who've taken part in our courses, delivered straight to your inbox

Friends Events & Engagements: 2025/26 Schedule

November 2025

Virtual Town Hall with General Secretary and President

November 2025

Political Economy Conference
(Friends receive a discounted rate)

March 2026

Annual Friends Get-Together in London

March 2026

Creative arts and activism: Songs & Strikes

May 2026

Roots of Racism

July 2026

Summer School

July 2026

Friends of GFTUET Open Day at Quorn Grange Hotel



“The work of the Trust transforms lives and draws upon the very best pedagogic traditions in popular education to involve, engage and excite participants.”



