

# End unpaid work!



Unpaid work has been in the news a lot recently, with protests over compulsory unpaid “work experience” for the unemployed and investigations into workfare providers A4e.

The media industry has issues around unpaid work. Young workers entering the media are increasingly expected to do more and more unpaid internships of ever-longer duration, with little chance of a paid job at the end.

But unwaged labour is in many cases illegal under Minimum Wage law.

Through the support of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) and its Cashback for Interns campaign, one former intern, Keri Hudson, has already won an Industrial Tribunal pay-out of over £1000 for the minimum wage that was due to her while she was working as an intern. Former film and TV production interns have won similar victories, supported by the Broadcasting Electricians Carpenters and Technicians Union (BECTU).

Interns who were over 21 and no longer a student when they did their internship have three months after the end of an internship to make a claim to an Industrial Tribunal. Or there's a six-year limit for cases brought at the Small Claims Court. They're entitled to National Minimum Wage, even if they signed a contract agreeing to work for free or for expenses only.



## Get more information:

- Cashback for Interns: [www.londonfreelance.org/interns](http://www.londonfreelance.org/interns)
- TUC interns campaign: [www.rightsforinterns.org.uk/](http://www.rightsforinterns.org.uk/)
- National Minimum Wage and its enforcement – UK Govt advice [www.businesslink.gov.uk/nmw](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/nmw)
- [www.boycottworkfare.org](http://www.boycottworkfare.org)
- National Union of Journalists (NUJ) [www.nuj.org.uk](http://www.nuj.org.uk)
- BECTU [www.bectu.org.uk](http://www.bectu.org.uk)