

# Is USS in deficit?

## The 'deficit' used to justify cuts is not real

Valuations depend on assumptions and the approach taken to risk over time. Statements from USS managers point to the strength of the scheme and its fitness for the future.

Reviews of USS using realistic assumptions about future trends and a sensible approach to risk suggest that USS is actually in surplus, not deficit. (It has also performed so well that fund managers have been awarded large bonuses.)

***Defined benefits*** means you have a guaranteed income based on what you and your employer originally put in. This means you can make secure retirement plans.

A move to ***defined contributions*** instead means there's no guarantee. Instead, your pension would be based on the market value of your personal investment fund at retirement. Employers like this because it means they don't have any liabilities, since you're taking all the risk.

**Watch this video from Sheffield UCU to find out more about the USS valuation debate:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAcXRRXKPe0>**

But there's  
**NO DEFICIT!**

It's crazy to value  
USS as if every single  
USS university and  
college could fail.

A more realistic  
UCU valuation shows  
an **£8 BILLION** surplus!

Bizarre  
valuation

+

Employer  
opportunism

=

More expensive

**AND**  
they want *me* to  
take all the risk!?

**20-40% off  
your pension?**



**Together, we can stop this**