

Proposer: Ruqaiyah Javaid (VP Education)

Secunder: Shaima Dallali (VP Community and Wellbeing)

Motion title: Students Deserve Better For Their Money

This Union Notes:

- Education is a fundamental right for all and should be made free via reallocation of funds obtained via taxation.
- In normal circumstances, a minimum tuition fee of £9,250 per year is unjustifiable. Under Covid circumstances, where students are experiencing a significant impact on academic standards, welfare support and access to resources which are integral to their learning, a minimum £9,250 fee has become outstandingly unjust.
- Several trade Unions, including UNISON, UNITE and GMB have campaigned for free education.
- That Class of 2021 students have had a poor experience of teaching, being doubly impacted by staff strikes as well as Covid. Little remedy can be offered for this outside of fee refunds.
- That 'value for money' is a conversation that we may engage in, but we also recognise that no true value can be placed on education. Nonetheless, value for money is important to mention as we accept the reality that students are paying fees currently. In the context of students paying £9,250 p/annum at a minimum, it places even more of an onus on the University to ensure that the education that they are offering is worth that much.

This Union Believes:

- That education is a social good and a fundamental right. This is incompatible with a system of Higher Education which forces students to pay for their education and reduces teaching, learning and research to a simple tool for economic growth.
- That education is increasingly being marketised and firmly standing in opposition to this is absolutely vital.
- The University has been financially impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and students have borne the brunt of this. Students should therefore be viewed with sympathy, and drastic measures need to be put in place to ensure that they are not impacted beyond what is unavoidable.

This Union Resolves:

- To lobby the University to refund all tuition fees for years affected by Covid and staff strikes.
- To lobby the University to work towards improving online and in-person teaching to a standard that is commensurate to the fees that students are paying.
- To lobby the University to work on projects and campaigns that improve the student experience.
- To collaborate with other Students' Unions and the NUS on Free Education and Fee Refund campaigns
- To lobby the University to freeze any fee increases.