

1776 Student Strike Ballot passed 29 October 15

Proposer: Liam McCafferty (Postgraduate Education Officer)

Seconded: Elliot Folan (Geek Soc)

Notes:

- 1) That the government intends to convert maintenance grants into maintenance loans.
- 2) That since the withdrawal of Education Maintenance Allowance there has been a severe lack of maintenance funding for poorer students in Further Education.
- 3) That the government also proposes to limit its Postgraduate Loan scheme to those under the age of 30.
- 4) That International students are now expected to pay large fees use the NHS during their studies.
- 5) The last 5 years have therefore seen serious reductions in the amount of maintenance support offered to some of our poorest students.

Believes:

- 1) That students should have the right to democratically decide how we campaign against the grant cuts and demand a say in the future of HE policy.
- 2) That the student strike is a tactic available for students to make their voice heard.
- 3) The arguments for and against a student strike should be involve students in a mass democratic process.
- 4) That the student movement is at its strongest when it can mobilise its members and empower students to participate in decision-making and debate.

Resolves:

- 1) To inform the NUS that this union supports a ballot on the questions and demands specified here:

Question:

Should students take strike action on Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd February, to defend student maintenance grants and to demand that the government ensure the financial security of students in FE and HE?

Demands:

"The demand of the strike is to defend and increase the financial support offered to all students across the Higher and Further education systems. The specifics are:

In England and Wales

That the government abandons plans to abolish maintenance grants and replace them with loans.

That the government introduce sufficient maintenance support for students in

Further Education.

That the government introduce maintenance loans for Masters students of at least the amount proposed for England, without discriminating against mature students as is currently proposed.

That the government stops attacks on funding for disabled students and reverses the cuts to Disabled Students' Allowances.

That international students are not forced to pay an NHS surcharge, and that the post-study work visa is re-instated.

In Scotland

That Higher Education bursaries are extended to cover the summer months.

That the government introduce an Further Education Bursary Entitlement, that sets an absolute minimum level of financial entitlement for all FE students regardless of location.

That the government introduce maintenance loans for Masters students of at least the amount proposed for England, without discriminating against mature students as is currently proposed.

That the government abandons plans to make international students leave the UK after they graduate, and that international students are not forced to pay an NHS surcharge.

In Northern Ireland

That the government absolutely rules out any cuts to maintenance grants or equivalent changes to those happening in England and Wales.

That the government introduce maintenance loans for Masters students of at least the amount proposed for England, without discriminating against mature students.

That the government abandons plans to make international students leave the UK after they graduate, and that international students are not forced to pay an NHS surcharge."

2) That if enough Unions call for a national ballot on this issue so that one is held, that any UUEAS decision on whether to support a student strike is made by referendum, taking into account the spirit of Union believes 1, 3 and 4 and the system NUS use for a national ballot, in which all UEA students would be allocated to 'yes' or 'no'.