

1823 Support HSC Students – keep the National Health Service bursary

Passed 3 December 2015

Proposer: Ruth Stone (UEA Edith Cavell Society)

Seconder: Connor Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer)

Amendments: J Donaghy (HSC YR I UG)

Union Council notes:

1) In 1968, Parliament gave the Secretary of State for Health the power to provide training for people considering employment in the National Health Service (NHS), and to pay allowances to people who have accepted places on these courses. These allowances are known as NHS Bursaries.

2) In the 1990s reforms to nurse education, commonly termed "Project 2000" were implemented, with the academic level of training established at a minimum of a higher education diploma.

3) In the year 2012 all nursing courses became degree level.

4) Allied Health Professions, Midwifery and other Health Science (HSC) courses are also supported by NHS bursaries.

5) The government have now announced that HSC bursaries are to be scrapped and replaced by student loans.

Union Council believes:

1) HSC students should continue to be in receipt of the current NHS bursaries.

2) That future HSC students at UEA would be negatively affected by these changes.

3) That this may lead to other healthcare students having their funding changed in a similar way in the future.

4) That these changes would discourage a large number of potential students from training to become nurses and other healthcare professionals in the future.

Union Council resolves:

1) To mandate the Undergraduate Education Officer to:

- Sign and share the petition to parliament which opposes these changes
- Support UEA student societies in their involvement in the action to oppose these changes

- Publicise the importance of supporting HSC students in their action against these changes
- Encourage all students to individually lobby their home and university MPs in support of keeping the NHS nursing bursary
- To write a statement on behalf of the Union on this issue
- To continue to consult HSC students on action on this issue and provide support where appropriate

Sources:

The Department of Health:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/457030/2015-16_NHS_Bursary_Scheme_New_Rules.pdf

The petition:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/113491>

A brief history of pre-registration nursing education:

http://www.williscommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/483286/Preregistration_nurse_education_history.pdf