



Student Council
29/10/2015

Support a Strike Ballot!

Background

1. That the Tory government intends to convert maintenance grants into maintenance loans, putting the poorest students in the most debt
2. That since the withdrawal of Education Maintenance Allowance there has been insufficient maintenance funding for poorer students in Further Education.
3. That the government also proposes to limit Masters funding to those over the age of 30.
4. That International students are being expected to pay to use the NHS during their course.
5. The last 5 years have, therefore, seen a huge attack on the maintenance support offered to the students that need it most.
6. According to NUS rules, to call for a national ballot on a given action, there must be 5% of member students unions calling for a ballot.
7. Across the world, student movements have won on the basis of calling formal student strikes – most notably in Quebec and Chile. NUS has called very large and effective student strikes in the past, including over cuts to grants.
8. It would be up to the wider movement to work out what exactly we would do on the days we are on strike, other than abstain from attending lectures, seminars, and the like – but probable actions include:
 - Students forming picket lines on their campuses, from the early morning.
 - Later in the day it in some places students occupying buildings and having demonstrations around campus.
 - In the afternoon, regional demonstrations in major cities.

Purpose

1. That students should have the right to democratically decide how we fight against the grant cuts and the general direction of government education policy.
2. That there are many cases for and against the strike tactic, but that these arguments should be had by students at large in a democratic process.
3. That the student movement will only ever win on the basis of mass grass roots participation.
4. As such, the NUS should hold a national ballot on student strike action.

Action

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

University of Bristol students creating a world class student life for themselves.



BRISTOL SU
the best student life

The Richmond Building
105 Queens Road, Clifton, Bristol BS8
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Tel (0117) 331 8600

www.bristolsu.org.uk

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.

In England and Wales

1. That the government abandons plans to abolish maintenance grants and replace them with loans.
2. That the government introduce sufficient maintenance support for students in Further Education.
3. That the government stops attacks on funding for disabled students and reverses the cuts to Disabled Students' Allowances.
4. That international students are not forced to pay an NHS surcharge, and that the post-study work visa is re-instated
5. 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

In Scotland

1. That Higher Education bursaries are extended to cover the summer months
2. That the government introduce a Further Education Bursary Entitlement, that sets an absolute minimum level of financial entitlement for all FE students regardless of location.
3. That the government stops attacks on funding for disabled students and reverses the cuts to Disabled Students' Allowances.
4. 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
5. 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

In Northern Ireland

1. That the government absolutely rules out any cuts to maintenance grants or equivalent changes to those happening in England and Wales.
2. 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
3. That the government stops attacks on funding for disabled students and reverses the cuts to Disabled Students' Allowances.

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Proposer:

Zack

Proposer:

Zack Murrell-Dowson

Seconder:

Tyrone Falls

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