Scrap Continuation Fees

POLICY RESPONSIBILITY: Education Officer
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Sheffield Students’ Union notes:

1. The University of Sheffield expects full-time PhD students to finish within 3 years.
2. The University charges continuation fees to students who have exceeded the 3-year deadline. This was £408 in 2016-2017, and increases each year.
3. Many postgraduate research students are unaware of continuation fees.
4. The University acknowledges that it does not need to charge continuation fees, and does so in order to encourage postgraduate research students to finish their degree.

Sheffield Students’ Union believes:

1. Continuation fees, have a significant financial impact on postgraduate research students trying to finish their degree.
2. These fees have a significantly and inexcusably disproportionate impact on students from low-income backgrounds.
3. Continuation fees make students less able to finish their degrees in a timely manner, as they increase the difficulty of making financial ends meet.

Sheffield Students’ Union resolves:

1. To lobby the University to abolish continuation fees for postgraduate research degrees.
2. To lobby the University to formally notify postgraduate research students about the need to pay continuation fees long before first payment is due.
3. To defend students who refuse to pay continuation fees by sending a representative to meetings between such students and the University when requested.

Policy History:

The above policy was passed by Students’ Union Council in February 2015 and renewed in March 2016.

This policy is next due for review in November 2019.