



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' CONFERENCE

27-28 March | Sheffield

Resolutions 2018

More Information

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Zone: Education

Motion 101: International students' hardship funding

International Students Conference Believes

1. International student fees have significantly risen in the last few years and international students pay premium across UK universities.
2. On top of tuition expenses, international students bear cost of living expenses on their own and do not have access to grants like home students.
3. Few international students receive university scholarships in the first semester or year, and some receive aid only for subsequent semesters or years based on their academic performance.
4. By studying abroad, international students contribute both to the universities' coffers increasing their finances and helping them educate home students at lower fees as well as also contributing to the economy by paying taxes.
5. International students do not often have access to bursaries, grants or other forms of funding which if exists at all, are very limited and difficult to access. And financial concerns are often the leading cause of stress and anxiety which impacts their mental health negatively.

International Students Conference Resolves

1. To mandate the international students officer to collaborate with the NUS president on the poverty commission to look into the percentage of international students that are affected by hardship and poverty and use the data to influence the following resolves.
2. To mandate the international students officer to organize a national campaign and empower students' unions to lobby universities that do not have hardship funding to create one for international students to support them.

Zone: Society and Citizenship

Motion 201: Tier 4 Visa Duration Extension

International Students Conference Believes

1. International Students only have 4 months after finishing their studies on a Tier 4 visa to be offered a job with a Tier 2 visa sponsor licensed organisation
 2. There was a huge difference between EU and non-EU students when it came to ease of finding work: 64% of non-EU students reported difficulties compared to 26% of EU students. (Broadening our Horizons: International students in UK universities and colleges. Report of the UKCOSA survey, B Merrick, UKCOSA: The Council for International Education, 2004.)
 3. In 2014, Mostafa Rajaai, alongside TEN, conducted a survey of 1600 students, where 38% responded they would need more than four months to find a suitable job after graduation.
 4. The new DLHE survey has changed from surveying graduates at 6 months to surveying them at 15 months. If we now expect UK-domiciled students to take up to 15 months to be in a robust graduate level job; then how can we expect International Students to do it in 4 months. (NEWDLHE: The Future of Graduate Outcomes Data. D Cook & R Hewitt. March 2017)
 5. 67% of UK and EU graduates were in UK work after 6 months of graduating (HESA, Graduate Destinations). Considering it is harder to find work with organisations that have a sponsor license in the UK, 6 months should be a more realistic time frame to find a job.
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International Students Conference Resolves

1. International students who have come to the UK to study, should be given the rights to seek employment after their studies.
2. NUS should lobby the government to increase the 4-month deadline for Tier 2 to a more realistic deadline of 6 months to ensure enough time is given to sponsor an International graduate.
3. NUS should work with relevant bodies to provide better advice about moving from a Tier 4 visa to another Tier Visa's.
4. NUS should lobby the government to make it more accessible for organisations to become license holders.

Motion 202: Campaign against the UKVI's customer enquiry service charges

International Students Conference Believes

1. From the 1st of June 2017, the UK visas and immigration (UKVI) has implemented changes to its customer enquiry service.
2. It has restricted and reduced its services to only 8 languages
3. Further, the UKVI has imposed a charge of £5.48 for all its foreign customers who contact UKVI through emails.

International Students Conference Further Believes

1. A large number of UKVI customers are international students. A huge number of international students contact the UKVI via email to enquire and get updates on their visas.
2. The email enquiry service which was previously free of charge is now £5.48. It is unfair to charge a fee for enquiry or update as international students already need pay a visa fee of £532. The visa fee should cover the email service and customers, in particular, international students shouldn't be charged extra in addition to the visa fee for email enquiry service.

International Students Conference Resolves

1. The NUS should lobby the government and the home office to reduce the customer enquiry service charges for international students in general.
2. The NUS should campaign to particularly scrap the email enquiry service charge of £5.48 that is in effect from 1st June 2017.

Motion 203: Lobby for student visa pilot schemes in FE institutions and for undergraduates

International Students Conference Believes

1. The UK government in 2016 selected 4 Universities (Oxbridge, Imperial College London, Bath) to run a student visa pilot scheme.
2. This scheme grants 6 months of additional leave on the visas from the course end date for international masters students on courses 13 months or less.
3. Additional 6 months to stay in the UK is particularly helpful for students who want to remain the UK and find work.
4. This scheme has now been extended to additional 23 universities in the UK

International Students Conference Further Believes

1. The additional 23 universities chosen by the immigration ministry in December 2017 are all mostly Russell group universities.
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2. This particular scheme is inconsiderate of the international students in further education institutions as well as the undergraduate students in the HE institutions.

International Students Conference Resolves

1. In order to promote fairness in the treatment of all international students, the NUS should lobby the government to implement these pilot schemes among FE institutions in addition to the already existing 27 HE institutions.
2. The NUS should also lobby the government on implementing visa pilot schemes that is inclusive of the undergraduate international student community and not restricting the schemes to merely international masters students.

Motion 204: A Better Immigration System

International Students Conference Believes

1. The UK government has introduced a number of stringent policies towards international students in recent years, including police registration, credibility interviews, the removal of Post-Study Work visa, the Immigration Health Surcharge and landlord checks.
2. These policies often discriminate based on nationalities.
3. NUS International Students' Campaign has been consistently campaigning against attendance monitoring, credibility interviews, police registration, the removal of Post-Study Work visa, the Immigration Health Surcharge.
4. International students should be removed from the government's net migration target.

International Students Conference Further Believes

1. The negative and misleading rhetoric relating to immigration has developed a darker tone surrounding the vote to leave the EU (Brexit).
2. A clear consequence of no longer being an EU member means that another Immigration Bill will be discussed and made law during this double session of Parliament.
3. A draft bill will be published in 2018 despite the fact that no agreement appears to have been reached over the status of UK citizens living and working in EU countries and vice versa.
4. The pressure will now be mounting on the Government to remove international students from net migration target, which the Prime Minister is continuing to resist.

International Students Conference Resolves

1. To continue to campaign against stricter and discriminatory system and potential proposal for international students to be removed from net migration target.
2. To continue to campaign against inhuman deportation and detention procedures.
3. To actively respond to the Immigration Bill and reflect the policies of International Students' Campaign.

Motion 205: Employment restrictions placed on International students by universities.

International Students Conference Believes

1. International students should be entitled to flexible job opportunities during their studies within the university.
 2. Voluntary work is an opportunity for students to gain more work experience on their field of study and boost their employability generally.
 3. Job opportunities enable international students to not only gain relevant skills for life after their degree, but also provides them with opportunities to earn money to support themselves while studying.
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International Students Conference Further Believes

1. Current UK legalisation allows students on Tier4 visas to work 20 hours per week during term time.
2. Current UK legalisation calculates voluntarily working within the University as part of the 20hours.
3. Voluntary working is sometimes confused with volunteering in University decision making and policy.
4. Universities are choosing to actively not employ international students over fears hours cannot be tracked.

International Students Conference Resolves

1. The international students officer should work with other zones to campaign against University policies seen as an indirect act of discrimination against international students and restricting them from internal employment within the Universities.
2. The international students officer should start as soon as possible, a campaign against the inclusion of voluntary work towards the hours international students are entitled to work.
3. The international students officer should start as soon as possible a campaign against deceptive and false recruitment promises to international students by Universities during recruitment.
4. The international students section should produce local campaigns and briefings for local unions to use
5. The international students officer should lobby UUK to provide clear guidance to Universities on the difference of volunteering and voluntary workers.
6. To work with trade unions on a campaign around student employment opportunities and on unionising international students who work to protect them from exploitation.

Motion 206: NUS should lobby the home office for a better and an accessible visa process for international student applicants

International Students Conference Believes

1. Every year, there are always quite a few number of international student applicants who are unable to make it on time to the universities
2. Some International students have no choice, but to miss orientation and fresher's week because of the delay in visas
3. International Students Conference Further Believes
4. The first week of university- the orientation and fresher's week is a very crucial week for international students as it gives them a chance to learn about their cities, the UK and the curriculum
5. International students who do miss fresher's week and orientation due to their delay in visas often find it difficult to cope up make friends
6. Some international students have faced mental health troubles and anxiety because they didn't enough support from institutions after missing their orientation
7. There have been situations where some international students have missed out on important information including registering to a GP and policed verification checks because they were unable to attend the welcome/orientation week

International Students Conference Resolves

1. NUS should lobby the home office to provide international student applicants a better, quicker and an accessible visa process
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2. NUS should also lobby the home office to increase the staffing support in the visa departments during summer, when a huge number of international students apply for visas
 3. NUS should work with Students' unions and universities to provide extra support to international students who are unable to attend orientation and fresher's week.

Motion 207: End Deportations Now

International Students Conference Believes

1. The home office and Theresa May have been complicit in thousands upon thousands of deportations
2. That 48,000 international students were wrongly deported over cheating on a test.
3. That various universities (like SOAS) have been complicit in the deportation of their workers
4. That every other week, migrants are put on chartered flights to be deported

International Students Conference Further Believes

1. This is inhumane and wrong. No human is illegal, migration is a human right.
2. Often migrants are fleeing in search of better economic opportunities that are a direct result of the global inequality inherently linked to colonisation

International Students Conference Resolves

1. To republish the end deportations guidebook made with the Black Students Campaign alongside launching a tour on ending deportations, what students can do
2. To work with organizations such as End Deportations to host workshops at various universities
3. To actively support grassroots campaigns that spring up around these issues

Zone: Strong and Active Unions

Motion 301: Supporting International Sabbatical Officers with Visa sponsorship and fee

International Students Conference Believes

1. An international student who is elected to be a sabbatical officer needs to apply for a tier 4 visa. The visa fee sums up to £457 with a varying NHS surcharge amounting to approximately £75.
2. Some of the Students' union in the UK (The University of Manchester Students' Union) support international students who are elected to be sabbatical officers with their visa processing. The students' union bears the visa fee charged for the elected international sabbatical officers.
3. However, some students' unions do not bear the visa fee charge for international sabbatical officers and therefore the officers need to pay for their own visa fee.

International Students Conference Further Believes

1. Paying an upfront fee of almost £600 for visa has the potential of adding financial pressure to an elected international sabbatical officer.
2. In the interest of encouraging more international students to take up sabbatical officer leadership positions, the NUS should do the necessary work that simplifies processes for international sabbatical officers.
3. The NUS should persuade students' unions in assisting international sabbatical officers with their visa processing.

International Students Conference Resolves

1. The NUS should lobby the students' unions to support the international sabbatical officers with their visa application and processing.
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2. The NUS should also mandate the students' unions to bear the visa fee charges of the international sabbatical officers.

Motion 302: An Accessible Deadline for International Students

International Students Conference Believes

1. NUS International Students' Campaign represents around 425,000 international students studying Higher and Further Education in the UK
2. NUS International Students' Campaign works on a number of issues affecting both EU and non-EU students, and works closely across NUS to ensure that international students' voices are heard on campuses and at a national level
3. NUS International Students' Conference provides a platform for international students across the UK to debate policy and shape the political direction of International Students' Campaign

International Students Conference Further Believes

1. Deadline for International Students Conference motions have always been on the first day of International Students' Conference due to the nature of delegates that needs additional time and support to understand the existing policies, language barriers and political cultural differences
2. Further, the International Students' Conference provides international student delegates with vital training to better understand the existing policy and all the work that International Students' Campaign has been doing
3. The deadline for motions this year has been changed to weeks ahead of the conference, which is not accessible for international student delegates

International Students Conference Resolves

1. To mandate the NUS International Students' Officer and the committee to provide policy introduction and training opportunities to international student before the motions deadline
2. To mandate the NUS International Students' Officer and the committee to work within the organisation to accommodate the needs of international students and work out a better solution of the future motions deadline.

Motion 303: International Student Leaders Conference

International Students Conference Believes

1. NUS International Students' Campaign hosted the first-ever International Student Leaders Conference (ISLC) on the 15th of November 2017
2. The ISLC was held in the same week as International Students Day (17th November). International Students Day celebrates students internationally and was chosen because on this day in 1939 Nazis executed student leaders and academics at Charles University, Prague. It is a way to honour their memory, the memory of other students who have given their lives seeking to challenge injustice and it also celebrates the contribution that education and student collaboration can play in making the world a better place.
3. The ISLC provided a platform for international students from both HE and FE and across the UK to share their experiences, to build power and gain skills and knowledge on our leadership in an environment where international students' issues are not side-lined.
4. The ISLC provided useful skills development workshops such as public speaking, political engagement & lobbying, and building leadership in the student movement.

International Students Conference Further Believes

1. The ISLC supported international student officers in involving international students in the rhetoric and language of their campuses, to share best practice and experiences of international students who have built on their leadership in a campus context and beyond.
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2. The ISLC inspired international students to take up more influential leadership positions in students' unions and establish a resilient network where international students, officers and activists can build power and share their experience and continue to communicate and organise with each other beyond structured meet-ups.
 3. The ISLC was accessible: it was free to attend and bursary was provided for FE, small and specialist students' unions to cover the travel cost.

International Students Conference Resolves

1. To hold International Student Leaders Conference every year by NUS International Students' Campaign to empower international student leaders
2. To mandate the NUS International Students' Officer and the committee to look into ways to make ISLC sustainable and accessible, especially for FE, small and specialist students' unions.
3. To mandate the NUS International Students' Officer and the committee to organise and facilitate the ISLC during the first semester to offer international students an early opportunity to establish the network, gain skills and collaborate on campaign and projects.
4. To mandate the NUS International Students' officer and the committee to explore more diverse content for ISLC, such as to provide policy writing training session to enable international students to better understand NUS International Students' Campaign existing policy and be able to draft motions before the International Students' Conference

Zone: Welfare and Student Rights

Motion 401: Educate international students about mental health

International Students Conference Believes

1. Good mental health is essential to the wellbeing of any individual.
2. International students are a unique group of students with added varying stressors that can significantly impact their mental health and wellbeing adversely. For example, language barriers, acculturation stress, illness, absence of close family support to mention a few.
3. Cultural backgrounds of international students vary significantly which also determine their knowledge and understanding of mental health and their ability to access help when the need arises.
4. Many international students are afraid of admitting that they have a form of mental illness as the cultures they originate from may have negative attitudes and beliefs around mental health.
5. People are less likely to be ashamed of a health concern if they have sufficient knowledge and understanding of the condition. However, this is different for mental health conditions.

International Students Conference Resolves

1. To work with the Welfare Campaign and the Disabled Students Campaign on producing resources to help students campaign for mental health funding on campus and services which are culturally competent.
2. The international students section should work with the VP welfare to support SUs to provide forums to discuss mental health issues taking into account the differences in attitudes to mental health which depends very much on student's background.
3. The international students officer should work with the VP welfare and liberation campaigns, in particular the Disabled Students Campaign and Black Students' Campaign, to develop toolkits for students' unions to better support international students especially from Black backgrounds to demystify myths about mental health and seek help if they need to.

Motion 402: International vote

International Students Conference Believes



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1. International students are not very well educated about their voting rights in the UK.
 2. International students from Commonwealth countries are eligible to vote in the UK but not many of them engage with this process.
 3. With the changing political landscape including Brexit, TEF, tuition fees, change in policies around visas, NHS and others (which affect international students) international students from Commonwealth countries can make impact by voting to decide who remains in power and how parliamentary policies affect them.
 4. Students who cannot vote have many other ways of participating in politics, such as engaging in campaigns, trade unions and direct action but some international students might be afraid to do so because they do not know their rights. Information on the NUS website about international student's ability to vote is scanty and out of date (May 2015).
 5. International students are not often as engaged with politics as they could be and it is sometimes due to lack of education and information of their rights and also differences in democratic processes depending on their country of origin.
 6. The voice of international students can be a powerful one.

International Students Conference Resolves

1. That the international students officer runs a nationwide campaign with the society and citizenship zone that specifically targets international students from countries eligible to vote and better educate and empower them to actively engage with the democratic process in the UK.
 2. International students section supports SUs to include education about local and national political engagement in their offerings to international students.
 3. That the international students officer should work with the society and citizenship zone to develop an action plan for the democratic engagement of international students, including but not limited to a voter registration drive for EU and Commonwealth students before the next local and general elections.
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