

Purpose of This Document

This document contains all the policy currently in effect for the Postgraduate Students Campaign. This is the policy that the Postgraduate Students Officers and the Postgraduate Students Committee are responsible for implementing and is sometime known as 'Live Policy'.

Policy Lapse

Policy Lapses in 2 circumstances:

1. If a subsequent policy over-rides it.
2. After 3 years unless Postgraduate Students Conference votes to renew it.

Policy passed at Postgraduate Students Conference 2016 will lapse at the end of Postgraduate Students Conference 2019.

What You Need to Do

If you are considering submitting policy to Postgraduate Students Conference, you should first check whether any policy is currently 'live' for that issue and whether you need to change the National Union's current stance on that area of work.

If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact democracy@nus.org.uk.

Contents

Policy passed at Postgraduate Students' Conference 2016.....	3
Motion 1: Postgraduate Representation	3
Motion 2: Empowering postgraduate students	4
Motion 3: An action plan to organise a grassroots, campaigning NUS Postgrad Section next year..	5
Motion 4: Establish clear communication strategies between the student unions and postgraduate academic faculties.....	5
Motion 5: NUS Governance Review motion.....	6
Motion 6	6
Motion 7: Postgraduate Research Supervision.....	7

Motion 8: Provision of consistent desk and office space is inconsistent for postgraduate researchers across institutions and departments	7
Motion 9: PG Support	8
Motion 10: Action to #StopTheHEReforms!	9
Motion 11: PGT fees	10
Motion 12	11
Motion 13	12
Motion 14: Leave of Absence for International Postgrads	12
Motion 15	13
Motion 16: Tax the Rich – Save our NHS	13
PG133: Don't Go Breaking My Arts.....	14
PG1313: Safeguarding The Mental Health Of Postgraduates	14
PG1318: Postgraduate Perspective Of The Post-Study Work Visa	14
PG1316: Representation Motion.....	15
Policy Passed at Postgraduate Students' Conference 2018.....	15
Motion 101: Disabled Mature Students Exist.....	15
PG151: Free Education	16
PG1514: Standing Up For Student Sex Workers, Supporting the Decriminalisation of Sex Work ..	18
PG1515: Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill	19
PG1518: Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions	21

Policy passed at Postgraduate Students' Conference 2016

Zone: Union Development

Motion 1: Postgraduate Representation

Conference believes

1. Students' Unions are working to improve their representation structures to ensure that we are representing students from both Undergraduate and Postgraduate
2. At National Conference 2015 the HE Zone put forward policy to talk about the needs of Postgraduate research students
3. The short length of many PGT courses mean that the PGT community is often less involved in their Students' Unions, particularly if it is not immediately apparent where/if there is a place for them
4. That postgraduate students aren't sufficiently engaged, supported and represented in student unions.
5. The structures and activities of students' unions are often designed with undergraduate students in mind.
6. This needs to be addressed directly and proactively in order to mobilise postgraduate students consistently on a national scale.
7. That many student bodies do not have dedicated, full-time postgraduate representation.

Conference further believes

1. NUS is best placed to act as a hub for best practice on the representation of PG students
2. If Students' Unions are seeking to improve both their structures and methods of representation NUS should be supporting these actions.
3. NUS to establish a student-led platform for student unions to access and share best practice and support each other in challenges in relation to postgraduate representation. This would enable slicker handovers to new postgraduate officers, as they have an immediate support network and national postgraduate community.
4. NUS recognises the unique needs of the PGT and PGR communities without maintaining a hierarchy of needs and experiences.
5. NUS has a duty to encourage student unions to create more postgraduate representative posts to ensure representation reflects the size and location of the postgraduate community.

6. That student officers, elected to sabbatical position and elected to represent all students, often have no or limited working knowledge of the postgraduate experience and priority issues for postgraduates.
7. That it is the responsibility of each student union to provide suitable representation for all students across all levels of education at their institution.
8. That NUS has a duty to assist Student Unions in preparing elected representatives to suitably represent all students across all levels of study. This is particularly pertinent for postgraduate and mature students, who often have very different issues than that of undergraduates.

Conference resolves

1. To produce a resource of case studies of best practice of PG representation
2. To assist Students' Unions in developing their PG representation structures to better meet the needs of PG students.
3. To mandate postgraduate campaign to ensure NUS coordinates training and/or suitable supplementary supporting documentation for newly elected student officers, which will provide them with information concerning key issues, germane to representing postgraduate students.

Motion 2: Empowering postgraduate students

Conference believes

1. There is a low level of engagement of postgraduate students in union activities.
2. There is a lot that postgraduate students have to offer their unions in terms of experience and abilities.
3. Postgraduate student representative roles have limited time and capacity to boost engagement with union activities.

Conference further believes

1. Postgraduate reps should be empowered with resources to boost engagement of postgraduate students in union activities.
2. Students' unions democratic activities tend to be shaped around the experiences and preferences of undergraduate students.

Conference resolves

1. To campaign to make the postgraduate representative position in unions a sabbatical one.
2. To ensure that NUS equips students unions with the resources they need to widen engagement with students' unions.

Motion 3: An action plan to organise a grassroots, campaigning NUS Postgrad Section next year

Conference believes

1. This year the PG conference has been ruled too small to representatively elect a committee, and is only electing 2 NEC reps.
2. Postgraduate taught and research students need an effective, powerful national body through which we can fight to defend and extend our student rights.
3. The NUS Postgrad Campaign can and should be that body. We have had significant successes, but we could also be doing much better. We should aim to be a more outward-facing campaign; engaged with, owned by, and helping to build up, students organising for change on each campus; and bringing them together to be a national platform to take action too. At present, for a lot of the time the Postgrad Campaign is too limited, functioning as a small committee of volunteers working in relative isolation, that checks in with a conference once a year.

Conference resolves

1. For the NEC reps we elect to convene an open working group of postgrad reps and students who want to help collectively organise activity in the NUS Postgrad Campaign
2. This working group and the reps should convene regular open forum events through the year, which are free and open to postgrad reps and students from all campuses. These should be places to discuss the issues facing us and our campaigning strategy, and plan practical campaigning action to achieve our goals.

Motion 4: Establish clear communication strategies between the student unions and postgraduate academic faculties.

Conference believes

1. Postgraduates are disengaged from university events and lack awareness about the resources, social events and opportunities available for them.
2. Their main points of contact are the academic faculty members and advisors due to workload and time constraints.

Conference resolves

1. Appointing and liaising with specific members of staff to have consistent and periodic communication with the postgraduate officers and representatives of the student union in order to be informed about the postgraduate events, opportunities and general important updates.
2. This would help engage students who are generally deemed as inactive or disengaged, where Course Directors will have additional information for the students depending upon request and

need.

Motion 5: NUS Governance Review motion

Conference believes

1. That the Postgraduate Campaign is under-resourced
2. That a committee of volunteers may not be the best way to organise postgraduate students

Conference further believes

1. There may be alternative ways of setting the governance of the section
2. This may or may not involve a full-time Postgraduate Section Officer

Conference resolves

1. That the question of a full-time section officer for the Postgraduate Campaign be considered in the NUS Governance Review 2017
2. That alternative models may also be considered to make the Postgraduate Campaign more effective
3. That the consultation for this is wide and as expansive as possible

Zone: Education

Motion 6

Conference believes

1. City University London offers studentships to its PhD students, which involve a compulsory amount of teaching hours (which vary wildly across and within Schools).
2. A recent campaign of CUL PhD students points out that the conditions of these studentships are not transparent, inconsistent and do not adequately represent their workload.
3. This situation is not an isolated one.
4. At Sussex University PhD students campaigned for their teaching, which is part and parcel of their studentship programs, to be recognised and remunerated.

Conference further believes

1. The case of CUL is not an isolated case.
2. Little information about these cases is available.
3. PhD students should have the ability to choose whether they want to teach or not in the context of their studentship.
4. All work, whether as part of a contract or a studentship, should be properly remunerated

Conference resolves

1. To research trends in the terms and conditions of studentships across the UK.
2. To lobby against the practise of institutions attaching compulsory teaching to PhD studentships.
3. To campaign for the full remuneration of any teaching activity (including preparation, marking, student contact hours and any associated activities) undertaken by PhD students on a studentship, as is the case with current campaigns for fair pay for PGR students who teach.

Motion 7: Postgraduate Research Supervision

Conference believes

1. That postgraduate research supervision is undertaken by multiple academics, usually with one taking the lead as primary supervisor, which can lead to a one to one relationship.
2. This relationship takes on a number of roles including introduction into the chosen academic field of the student, educational mentor and personal mentor.
3. That sometimes, for a number of different reasons, these relationships are difficult and sometimes destructive.

Conference further believes

1. That students often feel unable to challenge the breakdown in these relationships because of a lack of anonymity, potential of further damage to studies or future career damage.
2. That institutions often have no, or inadequate processes to deal with these issues.
3. Institutions have a duty to their students that they are able to challenge these relationships when there is a breakdown.

Conference resolves

1. To work with UCU and sector bodies to put together guidance to institutions on suitable processes for complaints and resolutions of supervision issues.

Motion 8: Provision of consistent desk and office space is inconsistent for postgraduate researchers across institutions and departments

Conference believes:

1. Lack of office or desk space compromises students' feelings of inclusion within departmental communities
2. Lack of office or desk space creates obstacles to academic working practice

Conference resolves:

1. Work with Students' Unions to lobby Universities to ensure consistent office and desk space for full-time PGRs
2. Work with Students' Unions to lobby Universities to ensure additional provision for part-time and non-campus-based PGRs

Motion 9: PG Support**NUS believes**

1. Postgraduate students in any form of study are often engaged in additional activity outside of their thesis but directly related to their studies or their obligations as a Postgraduate in their department or faculty.
2. In particular, commonly Postgraduate students are either contracted to, or a part of their role quickly becomes, delivering, leading and/or supporting the teaching of undergraduate students.
3. Postgraduate students do not necessarily engage in Postgraduate study to become a member of the academic faculty with associated teaching responsibilities.

NUS further believes

1. Levels of teaching quality are highly variable across institutions regardless of if the member of staff is a Postgraduate student or not.
2. There is no minimum standard or qualification to deliver teaching in Universities nationally, which as a result means little support may be available for these students.
3. The additional burden of delivering teaching and learning to other students can add a considerable amount of stress to an individual, as well as demands on factors such as availability of time to engage in research.
4. Postgraduate students often also highlight that they receive unequal or unfair reward for the additional responsibilities which they take on.

NUS resolves

1. Work with Students' Unions to develop best practice in the design and implementation of offers for Postgraduate study to students.
2. Work with Research Councils to develop best practice in regards to Postgraduate study and provision.
3. Work with UCU to ensure the effective implementation of Postgraduate Student/Staff charters (or the development of these).

Motion 10: Action to #StopTheHEReforms!

Conference believes

1. The proposed reforms presented in the government's Higher Education Green Paper comprised a fundamental attack on education, redrawing our universities against the interests of students and education workers.
2. We are now waiting for a revised version of the reform package to be announced

Conference further believes

1. There are extensive problems with the proposed metrics. In particular some of the proposed metrics fail to recognise, and perpetuate, sexist, racist, socioeconomic and other disadvantages. Research has shown that the ethnicity of lecturers affects NSS scores. And given pay gaps and the biases in the job market, the use of graduate employment statistics will punish universities for accepting more women, black students, disabled students and those from poorer backgrounds.
2. We can and should campaign against particularly problematic metrics. However, we also need to campaign against the whole attempt to use any one-size-fits-all metrics to quantify the "quality" of education and the idea that it can be improved by forcing universities to compete in a league-table-driven market.
3. The Government is proposing a structure which sets some public universities up to fail and close in order to make way for private businesses, to the detriment of students, staff, and wider society. The proposed reforms actively facilitate this process.
4. We also need to defend Freedom of Information powers applying to universities, and the autonomy and campaigning activity of our unions.
5. We should campaign against the HE reforms as a whole, and argue instead that universities and teaching can be improved by decent public funding, reversing marketization, and increasing the democratic control over education by students, education workers, and communities.

Conference resolves

1. To make campaigning to stop the HE reforms, in collaboration with education trade unions, a major priority for the next year
2. To try to engage postgrad students at the grassroots and use local and national lobbying, protest and direct action.
3. To explore the possibility of an Autumn 2016 campus tour, hopefully in collaboration with other parts of NUS, to raise understanding of the reforms and build the campaign.
4. To support the concrete proposals for action going to NUS national conference:
 - a. Organising a protest at Parliament running up to any debate or vote on the reforms

- b. calling a national demonstration in Autumn that brings the whole student movement together to tell the government: #StopTheHEReforms, #GrantsNotDebt, and #StopCollegeCuts too
- c. From 2017 boycotting the National Student Survey and Destinations of Leavers from HE Survey unless and until the government agrees to stop the reforms. Because these are crucial tools of the government's marketization and management of Higher Education and they are central to the TEF, boycotting them gives us massive leverage.

Motion 11: PGT fees

NUS believes

1. We are already committed by existing policy to campaigning for free education, funded by taxing the wealthy.
2. This autumn, PGT loans come in.
3. That the £10,000 government loan is welcome, and is a result of years of campaigning by the NUS Postgraduate Committee and NUS Officers.
4. That the #CapsOff campaign was a success. Loans are extended to those over 30.
5. Loans are a step in the right direction; however marginalised groups (e.g. BME) may still be priced out of Postgraduate education.
6. Living costs are on average £12,000 per PG student outside London and £13,500 inside London

NUS further believes

1. There is a real risk institutions will see loans as a licence to raise PGT fees.
2. Loans are a great step forward but we cannot rest here.
3. We must try to take control of the political narrative from the government and sector managers, not let them define our horizons, and campaign publicly for free education funded by taxing the rich. There is a real opening for this as free education re-enters the political mainstream.
4. As a result of £10,000 loans, Universities will see this as an opportunity to raise their postgraduate course fees, which sets a dangerous precedent in what is already an unregulated price market.
5. This will negate the intended impact on postgraduate education that the loan wishes to bring.
6. That the loans system does not take into account the high living costs that PG students face while studying.
7. That there needs to be some sort of fee regulation.

NUS resolves

1. To help equip students and student unions on the ground to campaign with lobbying, protest and direct action to halt local PG fee rises. We need to help SUs to start public campaigning as soon

as the prospect of fee rises comes up, in order to empower negotiations, not wait until negotiations break down or consultations close to begin

2. Nationally we should make every effort to put onto the public political agenda, the abolition of tuition fees and the decent funding of education by taxing the rich.
3. That the NUS and NUS Postgraduate Committee campaign against fee inflation in postgraduate courses everywhere.
4. NUS to lobby government and relevant sector bodies on the issue of fee inflation and propose, as a temporary measure, regulation and/or capping of PG tuition fees to prevent above inflation increases.
5. To review access data after the first year the loans system comes into effect.
6. To ultimately build a system whereby those from widening participation and liberation (BME, lower socio-economic groups, LGBT, women, Disabled) are not priced out of postgraduate education for both local and international students.
7. To work with Universities, Government and Students' Unions to alleviate impending cost crisis for PG students and make sure fees are regulated.
8. Provide advice and support to students' unions that are in negotiations with their institution over potential fee increases.
9. That this be done to achieve the wider goal of Free Education.

Zone: Welfare

Motion 12

Conference believes

1. In order for PG students to receive optimal benefit from support mechanisms available from their institutions, students should be made aware of available support at their point of entry.

Conference further believes

1. University and department inductions should promote awareness of available support mechanisms
2. The timing of inductions is not consistently aligned with points of entry

Conference resolves

1. To work with SUs to ensure that university inductions are aligned with PG points of entry.
2. Where possible, SUs should be integrated into the university's PG inductions to promote awareness of additional support mechanisms available from that institution and the SU.

3. NUS to issue guidance to SUs on the importance of promoting awareness of available support mechanisms at students' entry.

Motion 13

Conference believes

1. The provision of contracts for university-managed accommodation is inconsistent across HE institutions outside of the undergraduate entry period, which disadvantages postgraduate students which enter at a different point in the year.

Conference resolves

1. Work with Students' Unions to encourage the adoption of more flexible accommodation allocation strategy suitable for compulsory postgraduate entry dates.

Motion 14: Leave of Absence for International Postgrads

Conference believes

1. That students have the right to take leave of absence from their studies if they face a problem which will prohibit their ability to study.
2. That International Postgraduate students have their visa stopped if they take leave of absence over four weeks in duration.

Conference further believes

1. That it is unfair that international students have their visa stopped if they take leave of absence over four weeks.
2. That this further effects students who have to leave their accommodation.
3. That universities encourage students to take leave of absence rather than extensions via mitigating circumstances as this affects the ranking of the university, but leave of absence does not.
4. That being made to leave the UK further exacerbates problems that students with mental health problems face.
5. Students with children and families are made to uproot their families in this process.

Conference resolves

1. That NUS should lobby, and support students' unions in lobbying, the government to change the legislation in regards to leave of absence for international students, in particular regarding health reasons, to allow universities to keep sponsoring students' visas over their period of leave.
2. That NUS should start a petition to the government regarding this matter.

Zone: Society and Citizenship

Motion 15

Conference believes

1. That university divestment from fossil fuel companies is crucial in the fight for climate justice. To grossly underestimate the power of symbolism in positive rhetoric regarding divestment from fossil fuel companies by an organisation of the size and stature of the NUS would be a tragedy.

Conference resolves

1. The NUS should actively encourage individual student unions to use their powers to lobby their Universities to divest from fossil fuel companies.

Motion 16: Tax the Rich – Save our NHS

Conference believes

1. The National Health Service, similar to the Education sector, is something that is beneficial to the public good but is under attack from our Conservative Government.
2. In particular, the enforced junior doctor contract and removal of NHS maintenance grants are two current egregious examples of this.
3. The junior doctor contract is unsafe and unfair.
4. The attacks on the NHS will undermine the quality of the service that is provided to the public and set it further along the path to privatisation, run for profit and the accumulation of wealth in the hands of the few and not for the benefit of the many.

Conference resolves

1. To support Student Unions and student activists to show solidarity, and offer practical help, with those defending our NHS (including local BMA branches, "Save our NHS" societies and self-organised groups of students who currently receive the NHS maintenance grants)
2. To campaign for all reversal of privatisation within the NHS and to properly fund the NHS through taxation of the rich.

Policy Lapse

PG133: Don't Go Breaking My Arts

Conference believes

1. The postgraduate students' campaign should work with the higher education zone in upholding the policy on protecting and defending arts education in the UK. We should articulate the particular contribution of postgraduates to the creative sector.

Conference resolves

1. Lobby the government on eliminating the potential dangerous changes including but not limited to exam and curriculum reform across all levels of education.

PG1313: Safeguarding The Mental Health Of Postgraduates

Conference believes

1. Postgraduates face a specific range of issues that can seriously impact on their mental health, welfare and wellbeing, particularly isolation.
2. We don't have a good understanding of the impacts of postgraduate study on mental health, welfare and wellbeing.

Conference resolves

1. To work with existing campaigns on mental health, welfare and wellbeing to ensure the postgraduate dimension is taken account of.
2. To provide advice and best practice to students unions to support them to safeguard the mental health, welfare and wellbeing of their postgraduate students.
3. To confirm our opposition to Fit to Sit policies and support unions to campaign against these.

PG1318: Postgraduate Perspective Of The Post-Study Work Visa

Conference believes

1. There are aspects of the removal of the post-study work visa that particularly affect postgraduates.
2. International postgraduate students make enormous contributions to the UK's knowledge economy, public policy, communities and society.

Conference resolves

1. The postgraduate students' campaign should work with the international students' campaign to ensure that particular postgraduate issues are equally addressed in any and all campaigning work done on this issue.

PG1316: Representation Motion

Conference believes

1. There are problems of representation in universities, unions and elsewhere.
2. Liberation groups are often under-represented at many levels. This is felt particularly among PG students, and the problem is particularly sharp in some disciplines.
3. There are particular difficulties that postgraduate students from liberation groups face.
4. NUS should actively fight for representation of liberation groups.

Conference resolves

1. To organise a campaign to highlight the problem of under-representation of liberation groups among postgraduates.
2. To integrate campaigns to overcome structural barriers that students from liberation groups face into our postgraduate campaigns.

Policy Passed at Postgraduate Students' Conference 2018

Zone: Union Development

Motion 101: Disabled Mature Students Exist

Conference believes

1. Mature (aged 21 or over) UK-domiciled students starting full-time first degrees totalled 70,215 in 2015-16.
2. According to the NUS's own 2012 report, mature students are more likely to have disabilities in comparison to their younger peers.
3. While the NUS 2012 report into mature students recognised disabled mature students as part of the cohort, the recognition did not go so far as to identify issues, nor report experiences of disabled mature students.
4. The non-continuation rates for both mature students and disabled students is higher than their younger and/or non-disabled peers.

5. A report by Universities UK (2017) into patterns and trends failed to include disability within the 'student profile'.
6. At the time of the submission of this policy, there is no academic literature centred on the issues and experiences of disabled mature students in the UK.

Conference further believes

1. Students face specific barriers within education by virtue of their personal circumstances and from stigma both as 'mature' and 'disabled', and this is only individually addressed within the NUS by the Disabled Students Campaign and Mature & Part-time Students Campaign.
2. There is a severe lack of knowledge concerning the experiences, support and difficulties faced by mature disabled students.
3. The barriers faced by mature disabled students, can only be broken down, both on a national and local level, if they are first identified.
4. The characteristics of 'mature' and 'disabled' are intersecting identities and therefore, are likely to result in compounded and/or specific barriers within the educational environment.

Conference resolves

1. To produce research into the experience of mature disabled students and identify the issues that exist for this group of students.
2. To be inclusive of mature disabled students in future research and/or reporting into the experience of both mature and disabled students.

Policy Lapse

PG151: Free Education

Conference believes

1. "Immigrants, poor people, queer people of colour, disabled folks, women (especially trans women of colour) and gender-nonconforming folks if you are in academia and you don't feel smart enough, remember that you are in the playground and training grounds of the elite. Academia was not designed to include you. You are surviving something that has been systemically designed to exclude you in order to keep power in the hands of white, middle class, able bodied cis-men. Knowing this, don't let academia train you to believe that elitism is the right way to make it through school. You can learn shit, hold the knowledge of your people in your heart, discard shame for your humble beginnings and/or marginalized identities. Move through this experience knowing that the changes it offers you don't have to include accepting academic elitism, inaccessible language or superiority. You can simultaneously own the privilege

that comes with being college educated and connections to your roots. Academia does not have to kill your spirit.” (Fabian Romero)

2. Education is a right, not a privilege.
3. Currently, there exist huge barriers in accessing postgraduate education (both taught and research).
4. These include financial barriers, institutional sexism and racism, xenophobic and racist immigration laws, childcare access, physically accessible institutions... to name a few.
5. The movement for free education fights for a lot more than merely scrapping tuition fees – it encompasses campaigning for sufficient living grants, a properly funded disabled students’ allowance, extra funding and support for student carers, mature and part time students, universal childcare access, an end to hidden course costs, affordable high-quality housing, a liberated curriculum, and democratically-run institutions.
6. There is vast wealth in our society – it should be invested in education for all. Free education can be paid for by ending tax evasion, cracking down on tax havens, introducing higher taxes on incomes, inheritance and capital gains of the rich, and taxing the banks.
7. Democratically-run institutions and liberated curricula are essential components in the fight for free education. The marketization of education has led to institutions holding themselves accountable to corporate interests, rather than to its students and staff.
8. Education should be about the pursuit of knowledge, and we should be fighting to smash the patriarchal, racist and euro-centric curricula that currently exist.
9. Free education is not an impossible utopian dream - it exists in Scotland, and can exist in the UK
10. NUS Postgraduate Campaign already has policy to campaign for free education and living stipends for all, and in the immediate term for subsidised loans that cover full fees plus maintenance, regulation to limit and reduce fees, and the restoration of slashed direct funding. Existing policy states that these should be funded by properly enforcing increased taxes on the wealthy and on businesses, and by taking the banks under democratic control.
11. The Coalition government’s proposals for PGT loans are nowhere near good enough.

Conference further believes

1. There is plenty of money in our society to pay for free, funded, accessible education at every level – that money is in the bank accounts and businesses of the rich.
2. Students have been betrayed before. We will only win free, funded, accessible education by forcing the government to concede to our demands – through a concerted campaign of protest and direct action.
3. The Labour leadership’s recent concessions over £6000 undergrad fees, and the Coalition’s proposals for PGT loans, are insufficient but show that political parties are feeling the pressure from student campaigns – now is the time to increase that pressure.

4. Cost is not the only barrier to education – we need to smash other social barriers, and fight for liberation within our institutions.

Conference resolves

1. To oppose and campaign against all methods of charging for education.
2. To campaign for liberated curricula, democratically run institutions and living grants for all.
3. To campaign for free education, with living stipends for all students – undergrad and postgrad, UK and international – and decent government funding to institutions, across further and higher education.
4. To campaign for this to be funded by taxing the rich and businesses, and taking the banks under democratic control.
5. To support a campaign of protest and direct action, locally, regionally and nationally, to pressure the government and political parties to achieve these demands, including endorsing the regional demonstration organised in Sheffield on 6 March and the NCAFC-organised national demonstration in Birmingham on 28 March; and calling for NUS to hold a major national demonstration in Autumn term 2015, under the slogan “Free education and living grants for all: tax the rich”

PG1514: Standing Up For Student Sex Workers, Supporting the Decriminalisation of Sex Work

Conference believes

1. Sex work refers (and is not limited) to escorting, lap dancing, stripping, pole dancing, pornography, webcams, adult modelling, phone sex, and selling sex (on and off the street).
2. The current regime of austerity, and cuts to services and support have disproportionately affected women and women’s services.
3. Whilst sex work is not illegal in the UK, sex workers who work on the street can be picked up on soliciting or anti-social behavioural order charges, and sex workers who work together indoors for safety can be charged with brothel keeping.
4. Sex work is work. Sex work is the exchange of money for labour, like any other job.
5. People should be free to choose what they do with their time, their labour and their bodies.
6. With the rise in living costs, the increase in tuition fees, and the slashing of benefits for disabled people, it is highly likely that some postgraduate students do sex work alongside their studies in order to survive month to month.

7. The lack of funding for postgraduate education makes it likely that some postgraduate students use sex work as a means to fund their postgraduate degrees.
8. Financial reasons, and any criminal record gain due to the criminalisation of sex work, are often the main reasons for staying in sex work¹.
9. Stigma against sex work means that sex workers are less likely to seek out help and support if and when they need it.
10. Regardless of the reasons for entering into sex work, sex workers of all backgrounds deserve to have their rights protected and to be able to do their jobs safely.
11. NUS has a proud history of standing for social justice and for the rights of workers across the world to do their jobs safely and to unionise, regardless of their student status.
12. The pushes for legislation which would criminalise the purchase of sex (and introduce what is known as the 'Nordic Model' on prostitution) are often spearheaded by anti-choice, anti-LGBT right-wing fundamentalists, working with radical feminists.
13. Often, legislation of this kind is brought forward in the name of anti-trafficking programmes, when in reality they are laws which aim to control what people can and can't do with their own bodies, combined with dangerous anti-immigration initiatives.
14. Criminalising the purchase of sex puts sex workers, especially those who work on the street, in danger.
15. It is impossible to criminalise an aspect of someone's job without it having a negative impact on the person at work.

Conference resolves

1. To support the full decriminalisation of sex work.
2. To resist and campaign against any proposals to introduce the Nordic Model in the UK.
3. To support the work of the English Collective of Prostitutes and Sex Worker Open University.

PG1515: Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill

Conference believes

1. The Counter-Terrorism and Security bill become law on February 2015
2. The Act proposes a number of measures, such as placing a statutory requirement on public bodies – including universities – to 'prevent people being drawn into terrorism', permitting for the seizure of travel documents of those 'suspected of intending [to travel] in connection with terrorism-

¹https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/303927/A_Review_of_the_Literature_on_sex_workers_and_social_exclusion.pdf

related activity', and allowing the temporary exclusion of individuals from returning to Britain, including British nationals.

3. PREVENT and the Government's 'anti-extremism' agenda have been used to create an expansive surveillance architecture to spy on the public (Muslims and Black people in particular) and to police dissent.

4. The Government's anti-terrorism policy's operant concepts of 'extremism' and 'radicalism' are ill-defined and open to abuse for political ends.

5. Muslims and Black people are the object of a political climate of intense paranoia and scrutiny, and subject to an effectively two-tiered legal system with fewer safeguards for due process.

6. Over 75% of referrals made through the CHANNEL program between 2007 and 2013 deemed unworthy of further assessment.

Conference further believes

1. The new proposals of the Act come amidst a campaign of fear and demonisation from the government seeking to validate these intrusive new measures.
2. The Government is manipulating public perceptions and current global events to scale back civil liberties and freedoms as part of a political agenda.
3. Making the CHANNEL and PREVENT strands statutory requirement for public bodies will massively curtail freedoms of expression and other liberties for all in society.
4. Islamophobia is massively on the rise across Europe, is state-sponsored and legitimated by the mainstream media.
5. Despite minor amendments made to the wording of the Act, the statutory responsibility placed on Universities may conflict with their responsibility under the Education Act 1986 to secure and protect freedom of speech.
6. These proposals will have a detrimental effect on academic freedom, protest rights, political expression, campus and community cohesion.
7. The government's identified 'warning signs' of "radicalisation" problematise and renders suspect those with mental health difficulties

Conference resolves

1. To publicly oppose the Act and call upon the government to repeal it immediately.
2. To work alongside civil liberties groups including CAGE in opposing the Act.
3. Work with UCU and Unite to develop a campaign against Prevent and the Act on college campuses, and to state publically that we will not spy on our students.
4. To publically (re-)affirm NUS' opposition to Prevent.
5. To investigate, identify and block/cease accepting any Prevent funding for any NUS activities or departments.
6. To work with the aforementioned groups and Muslim student organisations to develop and roll out anti-Prevent workshops and resources.
7. To call for the Government's anti-extremism agenda to be thoroughly reviewed and overhauled.
8. To lobby the Government to make its criteria and process under anti-extremism law more transparent, accountable and open to scrutiny.
9. To support an independent review into the legality of the proposals under the Equality and Human Rights Act 2010.

PG1518: Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions

Conference believes

1. That the ongoing 66-year long occupation of Palestine, Israel's multitude of human rights and international law violations, its flagrancy and unaccountability to the international community is abhorrent and should be condemned.
2. That the Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) campaign was called for by Palestinian civil society in 2005 to pressure Israel into complying with international law.
3. That Israeli expansion on Palestinian land is a settler-colonial project, predicated on the ethnic cleansing and expulsion of its indigenous people.
4. That racism is systemic within Israeli state policy, with anti-Arab, anti-African and anti-migrant discrimination.
5. That the tactic of global boycotts effectively assisted the successful struggle against South African Apartheid.
6. That international solidarity from students is a crucial part of the Palestine liberation struggle.
7. That international solidarity should be conducted on the terms set by the Palestinian people, as per the BDS campaign.
8. That the Israeli government is feeling the pressure from international BDS.
9. That all other methods of pressuring Israel and the ending of the occupation have failed.

10. That the NUS already has national policy supporting BDS.
11. That the NUS Postgraduate Students' Campaign has for too long ignored passing policy and taking political positions on international issues – this needs to change.
12. As postgraduates and potential future academics, we have a special responsibility to engage with the ethical aspects of research and academia.

Conference resolves

1. To commit to supporting the Palestinian cause and anti-colonialism.
2. To support BDS campaigns initiated by students.
3. To lobby institutions and unions to divest from key BDS target companies, including G4S, Veolia and Eden Springs.
4. To work with BRICUP (British Committee for Universities of Palestine) and lobby institutions to adopt academic boycott of Israeli universities.
5. To disseminate resources and materials, such as the upcoming NUS 4 BDS Handbook, on how to run successful BDS campaigns on campuses.
6. To support the annual Israeli Apartheid Week Initiative.



National Union of Students

Macadam House
275 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8QB

t 0845 5210 262

www.nusconnect.org.uk

For general event enquiries contact:

e events@nus.org.uk

For content of the conference, democratic
procedures and elections enquiries contact:

e executiveoffice@nus.org.uk