

Purpose of This Document

This document contains all the policy currently in effect for the International Students Campaign. This is the policy that the International Students Officer and the International 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 International Students Conference votes to renew it.

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

What You Need to Do

If you are considering submitting policy to International 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 email democracy@nus.org.uk.

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Policy Passed at International Students' Conference 2016

Zone: Society & Citizenship

Motion 1: Extend EU Matters and General Elections suffrage to EU Citizens living in the UK

Conference notes

1. On 20th February 2016, PM David Cameron announced the date for the EU referendum: it will be held on 23rd June.
2. Background: 2.3 million EU citizens are resident in the UK¹.
3. EU citizens are allowed to vote in the UK for devolved Parliaments and Assemblies, local authorities and European Parliament². They can register to vote if they have been residing in the UK for 12 months or more.
4. British living abroad (emigrants) can vote in all British elections up to 15 years after they left the UK³.
5. Qualifying Commonwealth and Irish citizens are allowed to vote⁴.

Conference believes

1. The democratic participation in EU matters (including the 2016 Referendum) of EU Citizens residing in the UK is critical. The outcome of the such elections and referenda could bear potential life-changing consequences and serious implications on their future lives. We find it deeply unfair that the outcome of these elections will directly affect millions of people who cannot express their views democratically.
2. EU citizens hold a diverse range of opinions about the EU but they will not be able to express them as they are not allowed to vote, regardless of how long they have been living in the UK. Non-British EU citizens will be most affected by the outcome of these elections (including the 2016 Referendum).
3. Whereas the extension of suffrage to 16 and 17 year olds has already been discussed nationally, the issue of EU citizens living in the UK being excluded from voting in the upcoming Referendum and future EU consultations has not been addressed sufficiently.
4. EU citizens residing in the UK benefit from state services; contribute to the UK's economic growth, cultural diversity and intellectual expertise; have the right to vote and stand as

¹ <https://euobserver.com/social/123066>

² <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/faq/voting-and-registration/who-is-eligible-to-vote-at-a-uk-general-election>

³ <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/journalist/electoral-commission-media-centre/news-releases-campaigns/uk-expats-dont-miss-out,-you-may-be-able-to-vote-in-the-eu-referendum?>

⁴ <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/faq/voting-and-registration/who-is-eligible-to-vote-at-a-uk-general-election>

candidates in a number of elections (refer to Background point 2) and locally govern. This is a clear indication that EU citizens should be allowed to vote in the General Elections.

5. European migrants contribute immeasurably to the UK and its education system in a number of ways.
6. International EU students make up an important component of the UK education system and the student movement.
7. The date for the referendum on the UK's membership in the EU has been set for June 23 2016.
8. The result of the EU referendum could impact the access of European students to European educational institutions.
9. NUS has policy to campaign for the UK to remain in the EU.
10. The ERASMUS exchange programme has provided opportunities for over 3 million student across over 30 countries to study abroad, an opportunity which would not be available for UK-based students were the UK to leave the EU.
11. EU international students should have the choice to contribute to a referendum that could greatly impact their movement, involvement and choices to study or work in the UK.
12. International students are not aware of their voting rights and political rights
13. Because of the differences in the international political system, international students are not always of the impact their vote has
14. Engaging more widely with international students, especially with students who can vote in UK, will give the national international student voice more weight when lobbying government for our issues
15. An attitude of political apathy in international student communities is widespread and problematic

Conference further believes

1. There has not been a proper debate about the implications and repercussions on EU citizens' lives were the UK to leave the EU or to reform the terms of membership with the EU.
2. Crucial questions remain unanswered were the UK to leave the EU: e.g. the retrospective application of restrictions to benefit access; imposition of Tier 2 working visas (with the consequent £35,000 minimum income threshold⁵).

Conference resolves

1. To campaign and to pressure the Government to extend the right to vote to EU citizens residing in the UK in current and future EU matters (including the 2016 EU Referendum).

⁵ <http://www.workpermit.com/news/2015-07-07/uk-tier-2-visa-immigrants-must-earn-35000-to-settle-from-april-2016>

2. To campaign and pressure the Government to extend the right to vote to EU citizens residing in the UK in future General Elections.
3. To ensure that elected officers in SUs include EU students in debates, campaigns and student consultations in the run up to elections regarding EU matters (including the 2016 EU Referendum).
4. For NUS to lobby and campaign to change the regulations around entitlement to contribute to the referendum vote, to include EU students and citizens.
5. For NUS to issue resources to unions on how to engage and campaign around this issue.
6. To take collaborate with the International Students' Campaign and namely EU-international students on conducting NUS' campaign to remain in the EU, in the lead up to the referendum.
7. Encourage unions to have accessible polling stations on campus
8. Raising awareness with international on UK political system
9. Engaging with local councils to make voting more accessible
10. For NUS to engage proactively to address political apathy in international student communities

Motion 2: Refugee Rights are Human Rights

Conference believes

1. Over a million refugees reached Europe in 2015 alone, fleeing war and persecution.
2. The UK government only agreed to accept 20,000 refugees by 2020.
3. Refugees and asylum seekers in Britain are facing prejudice, discrimination and racist comments from far-right groups, the media and government ministers.
4. Asylum seekers currently do not have the right to work, travel outside the United Kingdom, benefits, or recourse to any public funds no matter how long they have been in the country, and must live on state support of just £5 a day plus accommodation.
5. Refugees and asylum seekers are classed as international students, and are charged higher fees than home students. They also have no access to student loans.

Conference further believes

1. Asylum seekers should be able to stay in the UK, have access to housing, healthcare, jobs and education.
2. The anti-migrant narrative is fueled by nothing but racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia.
3. Education is a right and should be free for everyone, regardless of citizenship status.
4. Current funding system leaves many refugees and asylum seekers with no access to Higher and further Education.

Conference resolves

1. To lobby the government to accept many more refugees to the UK and to work with the other EU members states for an EU wide initiative to allocate refugees.

2. To campaign for the government to better financially support asylum seekers once they have arrived in the UK and allow them to work.
3. To condemn and fight the racist and xenophobic narrative surrounding refugees.
4. To continue working with Student Action for Refugees on the Equal Access campaign, and make it a priority.
5. To campaign for free access to further and Higher Education for refugees and asylum seekers.
6. To encourage and provide resources for students' unions to campaign for scholarships for refugees and asylum seekers.

Motion 3: Fight EU – Turkey agreement

Conference believes

1. The EU agreement with Turkey to stop migrants crossing the Mediterranean is a threat to people's lives.
2. It also gives legitimacy to an oppressive regime and is demeaning to any ideals of the EU.

Conference resolves

1. The NUS should condemn the UK and the EU for proposing and potentially signing this pact.
2. The NUS should use established networks (including student unions across the country and student movement groups) to campaign against the agreement and put pressure on elected representatives to stop it.
3. The NUS should express its unlimited support for volunteers working to save lives and improve circumstances for persons crossing the Mediterranean into Europe.

Zone: Education

Motion 4: Bursaries and scholarships

Conference believes

1. There is currently a lack of bursaries and scholarships available for international students.

Conference further believes

1. That those bursaries and scholarships that are available to international students are not currently offered in a fair manner.
2. That there should be financial support for international students that are offered on the basis of both need and merit (in accordance with performance in academic studies, sports or the arts or achievement in extra-curricular or co-curricular activities).

3. That bursaries and scholarships should be available to any international student, regardless of nationality.

Conference resolves

1. That NUS international students' campaign should rigorously encourage institutions to introduce a wider range of financial support for international students.
2. That NUS international students' campaign should compile a list of all bursaries and scholarships offered to international students in further and higher education.
3. That this should be made available to all prospective students.

Motion 5

Conference believes

1. Over the last 5 years there has been a £40 million cut to ESOL
2. These cuts have meant that large numbers of staff have been made redundant.
3. This has resulted in poor teaching and learning for students.
4. ESOL students in FE are not entitled additional learning support, even if they are disabled students.
5. Cuts to ESOL courses disproportionately affect minorities.
6. Cuts to ESOL isolates people from their communities and stops the development of disadvantaged groups and communities.

Conference resolves

1. To work with the further Education Campaign in supporting Action for ESOL, which is campaigning to Mayoral candidates in London.
2. Support a coalition of other interested allies to organize a national campaign to increase ESOL funding and to get better representation of ESOL students' voices nationally.
3. To campaign for ESOL students to have access to additional learning support if they need it – especially if they are disabled learners.

Motion 6: Stop the Increase of International Tuition Fees

Conference believes

1. Tuition Fees are higher for International Students than for Home Students.
2. Tuition fees for International Students are not fixed and increase year on year.
3. There are a disproportionate number of international students that dropout of University. These students are often backed by their Government Scholarship/Loans and will have to pay this back if they do drop out.

4. International Students do not benefit from Access Agreements like home students do, and no similar regulation on how these increased fees are spent exist.
5. International students find it harder to get part time work due to Visa regulations.

Conference further believes

1. As there is no evidence of International Students getting any more for their money whilst they are at University, it is not fair they should pay more.
2. The lack of transparency is disgraceful and International Students should know where their fees are being spent.
3. International Students face many barriers in education in the UK, from Visas to housing contracts, which will not only affect the mental health of the students here now, but also damages the reputation of the education sector in the UK.
4. The government needs to intervene with the setting of International fees and stop free market persuasion on tuition fees.
5. The government needs to create Access Agreements for International fees as they have done with home students and enforce transparency within Institutions and Nationally.

Conference resolves

1. The government must be lobbied into taking action for providing a clear, transparent and standardised international tuition fee system.
2. The NUS needs to support Students' Unions as they campaign for fairer tuition fees within their Institutions.
3. International students need to be empowered to question where their tuition fees are going.

Motion 8: International Students Careers Network: A diverse career network for international students

Conference believes

1. A list of employers who have ability to sponsor international students beyond studies is not widely available/accessible
2. There are not many employers who are able to willing to employ international students
3. International students find it exceptionally hardtop be able to find employment beyond studies
4. With the new changes to Tier-2 salary threshold, this has now become more difficult
5. International students' career aspirations vary from UK Home students, as they are accustomed to international travel and 'displacement' for work and studies.

6. Current employers who have the ability to sponsor/employ international student, are still under pressure and scrutiny from the home office, and have to justify their employment of this individual over EU or UK options of employees.
7. International students need to locate a sponsor if they are to find work beyond studies.
8. This sponsor must have a license to issue certain types of visas
9. These companies need to be ethical and comply to NUS regulations

Conference resolves

1. For NUS International Students Campaign to compile a list of employers that have tier 2 sponsorship status
2. Establish an International Students Career Network
3. Work with university career services to develop a list of employers willing to employ international students
4. Set-up CV working seminars which are *international students specific* – especially with converting international qualifications
5. Set-up network of alumni and individuals who have been able to navigate the system to advise students who want to gain this working experiences in the UK
6. For NUS to challenge the attitude of the Home Office in putting pressure on employers to not take international candidates.
7. Set up a working group to overlook and engage with this issue
8. To run the first international students job fayre with representatives from organisations that have Tier 2 sponsorship status
9. Run it in October/November time?

Zone: Welfare

Motion 9: Improve Mental Health Support amongst International Students

Conference believes

1. Mental health (MH) is a crucial component to the wellbeing of all students including those who are international.
2. The experience of international students can be incredibly isolating due to a variety of factors including trying to navigate a new culture whilst becoming accustomed to their own identity within the new culture.
3. University counselling services aim to support students' MH but international students are a very broad group of students with cultural aspects that affect their MH and the kind of support that they receive.

4. The cultural differences represented by international students also affects the way they think about receiving support and their anticipations of how support can help them. With MH already a highly-stigmatised area, the additional stress of navigating therapy in a new culture can be tremendous.
5. Improving the diversity and cultural awareness of university counsellors would be a good place to begin improving the support provided to international students.

Conference further believes

1. That international students are faced with a big change when they reach a new country.
2. That universities do not provide sufficient support for the mental wellbeing of newly arrived international students.
3. That there is a disparity in the level of provision of mental health services specifically aimed at international students across the UK.
4. That all international students should be made aware of mental health support services as soon as they arrive at their institution.
5. That student advisors/mentors should be well trained and knowledgeable about the wellbeing problems international students' face when they come into a new country.
6. That short-term exchange and Erasmus students find it particularly hard to access mental health support that is suitable for them.
7. That peer to peer support is an excellent source of international student mental health support.

Conference resolves

1. Create and distribute survey to international students asking about their experience with MH support services at their universities as well as their knowledge of what is available.
2. Work with unions and organisations such as Students Against Depression to address specifically the areas of concern highlighted on the survey to improve the MH support available to international students.
3. Consult with organisations such as Students Against Depression and other national representatives of university counselling to create a model for training counsellors that will highlight the fact that international students have different expectations and perceptions of counselling and MH support. In the model, also include emphasis on the extra pressures that international students are under including financial strain, pressure to excel and maintain academic standards.
4. Work with university counselling services to include counsellors from a range of countries, BME backgrounds, and different languages.

5. Organise a campaign in conjunction with Students' Unions targeted at international students across the nation that would seek to de-stigmatise the discussion of mental health which is taboo in many cultures.
6. Encourage unions to create a safe space for international students to talk openly with one another about their experiences particularly MH and the way they are coping with it and to hold workshops to better educate and equip staff and students to deal with MH issues.
7. Support the wellbeing of international students by encouraging unions to provide a platform where students can showcase their cultures to improve the student body's appreciation of diversity and minimise the "us vs them" mentality between home and international students.
8. That NUS ISC should conduct research into how international students are affected by mental health problems throughout their time at college/university, in particular how this affects Erasmus students
9. That NUS ISC should support students' unions in making international students aware of the mental health support that is available on their campus.
10. That NUS ISC should work with students' unions to discover and share best practice across the UK in international student mental health support and to produce a resource for unions to use.

Motion 10: NHS exemption university scheme

Conference believes

1. From 2015 NHS charges were introduced for Non-EU International Students
2. NHS costs for international students is a hefty/unreasonable expense to seek healthcare in the UK
3. Access to healthcare is human right, and access to the NHS should be free for all
4. International students income currently have to cover
5. This additional cost can create major barriers for international students to access essential healthcare, including access to hospital care
6. These changes can inevitably affect the welfare of international students as they may feel they cannot afford hospital care
7. Universities have a duty of care towards their students
8. Retention is also now high in on the HE policy agenda, and this issue will impact this does not impact

Conference resolves

1. Set up working groups for universities to creating options for footing the cost for international students NHS fees

2. This working group will ensure that universities uphold their duty of care, and do not impose additional costs for international students who come under their exemption scheme

Zone: Union Development

Motion 11: International Student Identity Card and NUS Extra

Conference believes

1. International Student Identity Cards (ISIC) are available to students to gain access to discounts around the world.
2. An ISIC currently costs £12, the same amount as an NUS Extra card
3. That to gain access to discounts both in the UK and abroad students currently have to purchase both an NUS extra card and an ISIC
4. For a number of years international students have been calling for NUS to develop an NUS card that is also an ISIC
5. From the 1st March 2016 NUS will be launching an NUS extra and ISIC double sided card

Conference further believes

1. ISIC and NUS extra being on the same card is beneficial for any student that travels abroad but particularly for International students who may spend more time out of the country during holidays to visit family and friends
2. That having both NUS extra and ISIC in the same card means that nobody has to purchase two cards, saving money for students
3. That NUS extra and ISIC on the same card could cut costs for international student

Conference resolves

1. For NUS marketing of the NUS extra and ISIC joint card to put a focus on the benefits for international students
2. For a focus for additional deals to be beneficial to international students, in particular deals that help international students deal with the costs of study and travel
3. To inform Students' Unions of the additional benefits for international students so they can effectively communicate with their students.

Motion 12: Losing My Religion...

Conference believes

1. Commonly, International students are associated as being the predominant group of faith based students (regardless of which faith group they identify with).

2. Faith provision on campuses is highly varied, and whilst in some circumstances is reflective of the profile of the student body, on others can be highly problematic.
3. Institutions have a responsibility to ensure appropriate facilities are available for their students to practice their faith, regardless of the facilities which may be available under the sliding definition of 'local'.

Conference further believes

1. Students decisions on what college or university to attend are often swayed by a population of other students that identify within the same faith group
2. Populations of students of faith will never grow if the facilities are not available to support the practice of faith
3. Students of faith often define into other marginalized groups, contributing to further issues of lack of representation in the student community
4. Students' Unions whilst autonomous organisations are explicitly interdependent on their institutions, including in the availability and support of facilities.

Conference resolves

1. Work with Students' Unions to develop guidance on lobbying institutions to improve, enhance and develop faith facilities
2. Work with representative faith groups to engage local faith groups with students of faith on their campus
3. Develop guidance on enhancing cross faith collaboration in the use of space and facilities.

Motion 13: Getting to know international students

Conference believes

1. International students' officers often find it hard to contact and reach out to international students
2. This makes it hard to properly represent international students on our campuses, as our ways of contacting them is difficult and time consuming
3. It is important for international students' officers to get information about who their international students are, but also what they care about.
4. Most international students' officers are volunteers and so this is an added challenge.
5. That many international students are not aware of NUS and how it can positively impact their studies and their stay in the UK.
6. NUS gives you access to knowledge, insight, advice and networks that they can benefit from.
7. We want more international students to be involved in NUS.

Conference resolves

1. To provide guidance to international students' officers about how they can work with their university to share information about their international students.
2. To provide individual support for local international students' officers who are having trouble accessing this information.
3. To find ways of sharing knowledge about what is important to international students and their experience in the UK.
4. To build and proliferate the International Activist Students' Network.
5. To support local international students' officers to understand and promote the work of NUS and the international students' campaign.

Motion 14: International student officers in students' unions.

Conference believes

1. Not all students' unions have an international officer.
2. This doesn't reflect their student bodies, and so some international students are not being represented by their students' union.
3. Having an international students officer ensures that the union is more diverse, inclusive and can focus on the specific issues that international students face.

Conference resolves

1. To campaign about the benefits of having an international students officer in a students' union.

Motion 15

Conference believes

1. "International students have opportunities to understand NUS and attend NUS National Conference."

Conference resolves

1. We should campaign for special places for international students to become delegates of NUS National Conference.
2. NUS National Conference has much information contains difference areas, it a good opportunity for delegates to understand NUS and obtain new views of policies. However, international students may find it hard to win a place through election.

3. If NUS can communicate with each union to leave one or two places for international students as NUS National Conference delegates, according to the number of international students in each university, it may good for international students to understand NUS more.

Motion 16: Support the running and establishment of national international student unions (international societies unions)

Conference believes

1. National unions of students from different countries (e.g. National Union for Students from Brunei) have existed in the UK to bring together international students from certain countries together.
2. These unions are integral in the grassroots support of international students when they come from different parts of the world.

Conference resolves

1. Encourage the establishment of national unions for student nationalities that do not yet exist.
2. Create a working group to support the international students committee to run this initiative.
3. Use NUS resources to spread the word (e.g. comms and jisc mail)

Motion 17: Visa regulations for International Sabbatical Officers

Conference believes

1. In order to have free and fair elections in unions, international students must be able to engage fully with these elections
2. The new changes to the visa renewal regulations have created a real barrier for international students

Conference resolves

1. International student campaign and NUS to lobby home office to create more leeway for international sabbatical officers when it comes to visa renewal.
2. For NUS to put out guidance on this issue
3. To lobby individual unions to support officer by loaning money
4. For unions to actively spread the word on the support available

Motion 18: Conference opposes raising Tier 2 New Entrant salary thresholds to £23,000

Conference believes

1. The NUS should campaign for the re-instatement of a 2-year Post Study Work visa. However, it recognises that proposed imminent changes to the Tier 2 (New Entrant) visa category will adversely impact on current and future International Students in the UK
2. The UK Government is presently considering implementing the recommendations of a report produced by the Migrant Advisory Committee (MAC) published in December 2015 (title of the report: "Reviewing Tier 2: Balancing Migrant Selectivity, investment in skills and impact on UK productivity and selectiveness")
3. In practice, this report recommends raising the minimum salary threshold for "New-Entrant" (ie. Graduate) Tier 2 migrant workers from £20,800 to £23,000
4. This increase in threshold disproportionately impacts on graduates seeking careers in professions that require a pre-reg year/period of training in order to practice professionally, and whose pre-reg/training salaries are fixed by national bodies
5. Graduate pharmacists and nurses are particularly affected by this raise in threshold. It also impacts upon professions where it is standard practice for employers to deduct training/examination fees from a graduate's salary (solicitors, accountants etc.)

Conference further believes

1. The adoption of such recommendations will make it less likely that a large number of current international students will be able to receive professional accreditation upon graduation, despite the fact that this was one of the major reasons that they chose their particular course
2. This will, in turn, will have a negative impact on student recruitment, presenting a real danger to course viability that may impact on all categories of student

Conference resolves

1. To support SUs in campaigning against the government adopting the recommendations of the MAC's Dec 2015 report
2. To lobby MPs – particularly those representing constituencies containing universities whose flagship courses will be particularly effected – to raise the issue in parliament and challenge it
3. To target in particular decision makers and advisers in the Dept. of Business and Innovation that are known to be sympathetic to such cases
4. To seek to establish a coalition of student associations, departments, professional associations and accrediting bodies to oppose the introduction of the MAC's recommendations

Motion 19: International Students in further Education

Conference believes

1. Removal of 'established presence' means that many international students who come to study courses IELTS, foundation or access courses must leave the country before they can reapply for other courses.
2. This can be extremely expensive and not accessible for international students
3. The right to work has been removed from international students in FE
4. Because of limited recourses in FE colleges for their students unions, engagement of international students in FE is very problematic

Conference resolves

1. Start a campaign to allow international students to be able to renew their visas whilst in the UK
2. Campaign and lobby to reinstate the right to work
3. Engage more specifically with the experiences of international students in FE and deliver these stories/experiences to the Home Office
4. Make sure that NUS has bursaries available specifically for further education delegates to come to international student events

Motion 20

Conference believes

1. Home Office has scrapped the 10 hours working allowance for International Students studying in FE.
2. This leads in International Students choosing HE over FE and eventually colleges face more funding cuts and redundancies.
3. International Students in FE are forced to leave the country before they can apply for a higher education course or a job.
4. This will limit their capacity to volunteer or undertake course-based work placements.
5. A NUS survey shows 50.7 per cent of non-EU students surveyed think that the Government is either not welcoming or not at all welcoming towards International students. 19.4 per cent of non-EU students would not recommend the UK as a place to study for a friend or relative.

Conference resolves

1. International Students in FE should be entitled to as many working hours allowance as International Students in HE.
2. International Students should be able to apply for a HE course or jobs from within the country
3. International Students' campaign to work with other FTOs and relevant organizations to lobby on getting the right to work part-time during their studies and apply for HE progression and jobs from within the country.

Motion 21: Providing visa- applicant students with a temporary ID

Conference believes

1. When non-EU students are applying for visas, they are required to send all their documents, such as passports, national IDs etc.
2. Students are therefore left with no valid Identification.
3. This might pose a problem when dealing with the NHS, the police and buying over 18 products, amongst other things.

Conference resolves

1. Students should not be left with no ID, they should be provided with a formal temporary identification card which is nationally recognized, other than a student card.

Motion 22: NUS Immigration Information Hub Immigration awareness on campus

Conference believes

1. Immigration policies in the UK impact all international students greatly
2. Each students union chooses to engage with the current immigration issues in different ways
3. Certain types of immigration issues impact some groups of international students more than others
4. There are many great campaigns and work that different unions do all around the country that do engage with international students issues, but this good practise is not widely disseminated
5. There is not widespread knowledge on campus of how the UK immigration system impact different student communities

Conference resolves

1. NUS International Students Campaign should support unions to develop widespread knowledge on campus on the impact of current UK immigration policies.
2. Creating awareness on how the policies have impacted fellow international students will naturally develop support campaign networks that consist of diverse students from the campus communities.
3. Make a campaign through sustainable policies that will ensure the development
4. NUS giving a platform for SUs to pool their resources and globalise all their campaigns
5. Create a hub where all this information is centralised, 'International Students Information Bank'
6. Mandate the international students officer to manage this network/initiative
7. Strongly engage with SUs to proactively engage with this initiative
8. NUS to develop policy document for SUS to pass in union council

Motion 23: Defend Migrants: Another Europe is Possible

Conference believes

1. On the 23rd of June will be the referendum on the UK's EU membership, and David Cameron has already renegotiated the terms of Britain's membership, undermining important rights and attacking migrants.
2. We should fight to defend the guarantee of freedom of movement for EU citizens (including students travelling to study), and fight to extend it to those currently locked out of "Fortress Europe".
3. Despite some progressive policies, the current state of the EU protects the interests of the rich and powerful. It is undemocratic and bureaucratic, and enforces austerity and privatisation.
4. But the UK state is no less a tool of the rich and powerful. Leaving the EU would only boost anti-migrant racists and strengthen barriers against free movement and international solidarity.

Conference further believes

1. NUS rightly already opposes Brexit. At the same time, we cannot ignore the EU's problems. We must argue to stay in as part of a fight for a genuinely democratic and socially just Europe with better rights for migrants.
2. The big Britain Stronger in Europe campaign is dominated by Tories and business leaders. It's their campaign to defend the EU as it is now, and so can't be a voice for the kind of Europe we want. The Another Europe is Possible (AEIP) campaign has been set up to organise a progressive, anti-austerity, internationalist opposition to Brexit.

Conference resolves

1. Campaign for the UK to stay in the EU, but on our own basis as above, for:
 - a. international student and workers' solidarity
 - b. levelling up of wages, conditions, services and rights across the EU
 - c. democratisation of the EU
 - d. freedom of movement and an end to "Fortress Europe"
2. Campaign against David Cameron's renegotiations undermining migrant rights, workers' rights and human rights.
3. To work independently from the Tory- and big-business-dominated "Britain Stronger in Europe", instead promoting a positive vision by working with progressive campaigns, student unions and trade unions across Europe.
4. Put migrants' rights and freedom of movement at the heart of our campaign.

Motion 24: Fight Deportations

Conference believes

1. Deportations are unnecessary and inhumane.

2. Deportations destroy lives and communities, remove vulnerable students from their support networks, stop them from finishing their studies, and can have a disastrous effect on their physical and mental health.
3. At the moment the amount of support that students facing deportation receive from NUS is often dependent on their personal networks and relationship to NUS.

Conference resolves

1. To oppose and fight against deportations.
2. To establish a part of the International students' campaign that is able to effectively help any student facing deportation immediately. This should include but is not limited to: a list of recommended immigration lawyers who NUS establish a relationship with; a legal fund; a campaign toolkit to support students running grassroots campaigns; a visible and well promoted point of contact for pastoral support and (non-legal) advice.

Motion 25: Open borders

Conference believes

1. NUS should be not only a supporter but a champion of open borders: it's symbolic, it might not happen within our lifetimes, but is important to be bold and talk about it.
2. In our increasingly globalised world, the validity of the nation-state is less and less obvious.
3. Globalisation benefits multi-national companies and capital, while the movement of people is still often restricted by borders.
4. As the current refugee crisis proves, borders cost lives.
5. That we should not buy into the rhetoric of "deserving" and "undeserving migrants." Freedom of movement is a fundamental right.
6. That students, students' unions and NUS should actively participate in debates about migration.

Conference resolves

1. To challenge the idea that the nation state has the right to control its borders when representatives of the campaign are invited to speak on public platforms.
2. To work with progressive organisations such as Movement for Justice that campaign on freedom of movement.

Motion 26: Setting up a National Tenancy Union

Conference believes

1. NUS ISC should make great leaps yearly to protecting its members right to decent housing

2. Universities should make sure that any letting agency endorsed by them or charged with this duty to be checked in order to meet a basic level of standards for international students and low-income students
3. If the university continues to promote letting agencies which do not meet the students' unions' approval then the SU has the right to actively criticise, and demonstrate, both against the university and also letting agencies which exploit students vulnerable financial position and their need for housing with support from NUS ISC
4. NUS ISC have a responsibility to support Students' Unions to pressurise City Councils over issues like housing that affect students and the wider community. The mismanagement of the housing sector only leads to animosity between International students and landlords

Conference resolves

1. To mandate the NUS international students campaign to bring up this complaint to the main NUS for action.
2. To actively educate students about NUS' policies and the legislations concerns, including via the Ready to Rent training programme
3. To support demonstrations/protests by individual SUs, the form these take can be discussed between interested parties and the NUS ISC, against letting agencies that offer unfair or discriminatory fees and practices to students with the goal of publicly embarrassing poor landlords and affecting their income from the exploitation of other students as well as raising awareness of these issues.
4. To mandate NUS ISC to support SUs to build a wider movement, alongside a National Tenants Union and local resident groups, in a bid to pressure the city councils to regulate housing agencies.

Motion 27: Name of Motion: International Students in Accommodation

Conference believes

1. International students' welfare is an essential part of the student experience
2. International students should be provided with adequate security and this should be at the forefront of universities' agenda
3. International students with lower and middle-range budgets may be excluded from student accommodation, either provided by the institution or private providers
4. International students should be provided accommodation as a priority and should be eligible to access all available accommodation options
5. Students from EU and non EU countries should also be treated as students and not customers in residences.

6. Contracts between universities and external providers need to be monitored to ensure international students expectations are met
7. More measures need to be put in place to ensure students from EU and non EU countries get value for money in their accommodation
8. Affordable accommodation with flexible contracts (short term, family accommodation Erasmus students) should be made available.

Conference resolves

1. International students campaign should lobby for the introduction of systems for regulating student accommodation providers to ensure that different types of accommodation is provided (for families, short term contracts) and ensure that anonymised security/ incident logs are shared with SUs to allow the SU to be aware of serious incidents and support students who may have been affected
2. International students campaign to support SUs to challenge universities on the provision of welfare services for international students, so they have parity with home students, for example equal access to hardship funds
3. NUS ISC to lobby for staff members to have mental health first aid training to support students' welfare.

Motion 28: Right to Rent about Right to Rent

NUS believes

1. The Right to Rent policy contained in the 2015 Immigration bill, which comes into effect nationally on 1st February 2016, puts an onus on landlords to check that prospective tenants have the right to rent in the UK.
2. Landlords that rent to those who don't have a right to rent property in the UK could incur a penalty fine of up to £3,000.
3. Right to Rent has the potential to discriminate against minority ethnic groups as fines will make private landlords reticent to rent to those whom they perceive to not have British National status.
4. In the initial discussions about the policy, it was found that 80% of UK landlords did not support Right to Rent because they have no expertise or experience in immigration policy, which could increase discrimination against international students.
5. The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI) conducted a piece of research that found that 42% of landlords are unlikely to rent to those without British passports, and over 25% would be "less likely to rent to someone with a foreign name or foreign accent". They found that

Right to Rent checks were not being undertaken uniformly but were instead “directed at certain individuals who appear ‘foreign’”.

6. The research also found that landlords discriminated against individuals with the legal right to rent but with an unclear or complicated immigration status, in addition to those who cannot provide documentation immediately, including BAME tenants and British citizens.
7. In areas with low housing stock, high competition for beds impacts international students, as landlords will see renting to British Nationals as the path of least resistance. International students will therefore be less likely to secure a tenancy when in competition with British National students, forcing them into sub-standard housing.

NUS further believes

1. International students already have significant weight on them in terms of the efforts, paperwork and monetary costs required of (particularly non-EEA) international students to secure their visas.
2. This move is part of a xenophobic campaign codified into government policy, creating an increasingly hostile environment for migrants and BAME & international students.
3. Rent to Rent will negatively impact international students, especially in areas of low housing stock, as it will make landlords reluctant to rent to those who they perceive could pose more hurdles than British Nationals, and try to avoid incurring a penalty by renting to those who could show any indication of having a migrant status.

NUS resolves

1. To mandate NUS release a statement outlining the discrimination international students face as a result of Right to Rent.
2. to mandate NUS to conduct a piece of research after the implementation of Right to Rent, particularly in areas of low housing stock, looking specifically at its impact on the experiences of international students renting in the private sector, including how it affects the attitudes of landlords.
3. To release the findings of this research to all Constituent Members, with guidance on how Students’ Unions can attempt to neutralize the negative impact of Right to Rent legislation on international students.
4. Campaign to support Students’ Unions in providing information and guidance to local landlords about international students’ immigration status’ and how they are affected by Right to Rent.

Policy Lapse
IS_133: We Are All Immigrants

Conference believes

1. As international students we ARE immigrants. We oppose the immigrant being framed as a negative. We are proud to be migrants.

Conference resolves

1. We want to fight the perceptions of society and abolish the dichotomy of resident and immigrant.

Policy Passed at International Students' Conference 2018

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.

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.
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.

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
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.
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.
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

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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