



Budget for Better Student Support

Nicola Sturgeon, the First Minister, has said that education is the number one priority for the Scottish Government. NUS Scotland is asking the Scottish Government to make this a reality by investing in better support for Scotland's students. We're calling for:

Budget for Increased Bursaries

The current student support system is broken. The poorest students in higher education are forced to take the greatest debt, while further education students have no guarantees that they'll be entitled to any financial support.

NUS Scotland is calling for serious new investment in bursary support for both further and higher education students - so that they are supported to succeed wherever they study.

Budget for a Better Deal for Graduates

Students taking out loans in Scotland get a raw deal. Currently, students start repaying loans once they earn over £17,775. This threshold is substantially lower than in England and Wales, where a graduate needs to earn above £25,000 before paying back their loan.

NUS Scotland is calling for a better deal for Scotland's graduates – starting with an immediate increase to the loan repayment threshold.

Budget for Mental Health Support

Drastically different levels of mental health support are available to students based on where they study with under provision of services being a particular problem at colleges.

We are calling for the Scottish Government to dedicate new, ring fenced funding to establish a universal level of counselling provision and mental health support at all of Scotland's colleges and universities.

Get involved

Our Budget for Better campaign calls for:

- Budget for Increased Bursaries
- Budget for a Better Deal for Graduates
- Budget for Mental Health Support

It just takes a few clicks to get involved in our **Budget for Better** campaign and to ask your MSPs to support our campaign.

Go to www.nusconnect.org.uk/BudgetForBetter where you can directly email your MSPs. We're also including Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister in our emails so she can hear directly from students and members of the public why improvements to student support are so vitally needed.

Already emailed your MSP?

- Share the campaign on your Twitter using **#BudgetForBetter** – remember to tag **@NUSScotland**.
- Spread the word to **other students and staff on campus**, hand this leaflet on to someone else to ask them to support the campaign. You can also **contact your students' association** to find out how you can get more involved in the campaign.
- Talk to your **parents, grandparents or carers** about why you think they should support the campaign and ask them to contact their local MSPs.

