

## Contents

### Policy

Policy passed at International Students Conference 2014	9
Policy passed at International Students Conference 2015	22
Policy Passed at International Students Conference 2016	29

### 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 2014 will lapse at the end of International Students Conference 2017.

### 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 contact [executiveoffice@nus.org.uk](mailto:executiveoffice@nus.org.uk)

Policy Passed At International Students Conference 2014	5
Zone: Society and Citizenship	5
IS_141: A Better Employment Agenda for International Students	5
IS_142: A Fairer Fees Regime for International Students	6
IS_143: An Immigration System That Works For Everyone	7
Zone: Education	9
IS_144: A Better International Student Experience	9
IS_145: Integrated Housing	10
IS_146: Immigration and Xenophobia	10
IS_147: International Student Representation	11
IS_148: Overseas Academics	12
IS_149: Maximising Participation at International Students Conference	12
Policy Passed At International Students Conference 2015	13
Zone: Education	13
IS_151: Immigration System and International Students	13
IS_152: Recruitment and Information	14
IS_153: Recognition of Qualifications	16
IS_154: Diversity Training For Teachers	16
IS_155: Reaffirming and Enhancing Our Policy on International Fees	17
Zone: Welfare	18
Motion 5a: International Disabled Students' Fund	18
IS_156: International Students in Crisis	18
IS_157: Protecting International Students	19
IS_158: Protecting Academic Judgment and Student Welfare in the Immigration System	19
IS_159: Scrap NHS Fees for International Students	20
IS_1510: Everyone Has the "Right to Rent"	21
Zone: Society & Citizenship	22
IS_1511: Post-Study Work Visa and Reforming Of the Tiers	22
IS_1512: International Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender (LGBT) Students and Asylum Seekers in the UK	24
IS_1513: Keep EU Closer to UK	24
IS_1514: Opposition to Bans on International Students Based On Their Nationality	25
IS_1515: Free Cyprus	26
IS_1516: The Right to Work Should Be Equal for All	26
IS_1517: Missing Students in Guerrero, Mexico #WeAreAllAyotzinapa	27

Zone: Union Development _____	29
IS_1518: International Student Representation _____	29
IS_1519: International Student Societies _____	30
IS_1520: Diversity in Representation _____	30
IS_1521: Introduce A Full Time International Officer In Every Students' Union In The UK. _____	30
Motion 23: Post-Study Work Visas _____	31
Policy Passed At International Students' Conference 2016 _____	32
Zone   Society & Citizenship _____	32
Motion 1: Extend EU Matters and General Elections suffrage to EU Citizens living in the UK _____	32
Motion 2: Refugee Rights are Human Rights _____	33
Motion 3: Fight EU – Turkey agreement _____	34
Zone   Education _____	35
Motion 4: Bursaries and scholarships _____	35
Motion 5 _____	35
Motion 6: Stop the Increase of International Tuition Fees _____	35
Motion 8: International Students Careers Network: A diverse career network for international students _____	36
Zone   Welfare _____	38
Motion 9: Improve Mental Health Support amongst International Students _____	38
Motion 10: NHS exemption university scheme _____	39
Zone   Union Development _____	40
Motion 11: International Student Identity Card and NUS Extra _____	40
Motion 12: Losing My Religion... _____	40
Motion 13: Getting to know international students _____	41
Motion 14: International student officers in students' unions. _____	41
Motion 15 _____	41
Motion 16: Support the running and establishment of national international student unions (international societies unions) _____	42
Motion 17: Visa regulations for International Sabbatical Officers _____	42
Motion 18: Conference opposes raising Tier 2 New Entrant salary thresholds to £23,000 _____	42
Motion 19: International Students in Further Education _____	43
Motion 20 _____	44
Motion 21: Providing visa- applicant students with a temporary ID _____	44
Motion 22: NUS Immigration Information Hub Immigration awareness on campus _____	44
Motion 23: Defend Migrants: Another Europe is Possible _____	45
Motion 24: Fight Deportations _____	46

Motion 25: Open borders_____	46
Motion 26: Setting up a National Tenancy Union _____	46
Motion 27: Name of Motion: International Students in Accommodation_____	47
Motion 28: Right to Vent about Right to Rent _____	48

# Policy Passed At International Students Conference 2014

## Zone: Society and Citizenship

### IS\_141: A Better Employment Agenda for International Students

#### **Conference believes:**

1. That employability is one of the main reasons international students study in the UK. Unite (2006) found that 57% of students studies to get a better job and NUS (2012) found 62.3% came to gain work experience in the UK and 71% to improve their job prospects back home.
2. 95.5% felt gaining work experience during their studies was important to them. However only 59.2% felt that gaining work experience relevant to their chosen career was easy to achieve.
3. That the UK Government removed the post-study work visa in 2011. NUS found that roughly 70% of students came to the UK partially because of the availability of this visa. The majority stated they would not have come if this was not available.
4. That the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand are offering relatively better and more comprehensive post-study work opportunities to international students.
5. That international students are finding it incredibly difficult to get work experience in the UK due to:
  - A) The short time period students are given to identify a job and a sponsor.
  - B) The fact that most employers students apply to do not have Tier 2 licenses and therefore cannot sponsor them (including large companies).
  - C) The restrictions which link Tier 2 limits to specific salary limits such as £20,000.
6. NUS found that 41% of international students are dissatisfied with the level of careers support offered to them.
7. International students are often exploited by their employers due to them not being aware of their rights.

#### **Further believes:**

1. International students who come here to study should have the same basic rights as other students to seek employment after their studies.
2. International students who stay on make important cultural and economic contributions to the UK, regardless of discipline.
3. The current provision of information to employers on employing international students is not sufficient.
4. The current availability of post-study work opportunities is unacceptable.
5. Better post-study work opportunities should be restored; as should a bridge period where international students can stay on to look for a job.
6. SMEs and charities can benefit incredibly from international students and policies need to make it easier for them to recruit international students.
7. Universities and colleges should provide better careers support to international students and should look into offering placements.

#### **Conference resolves:**

1. To campaign for better employment opportunities and agenda for international students.
2. NUS should provide information about trade unions to International Students and encourage them to join trade unions.
3. To work with other organisations to establish a national hub for International students in terms of information about employment.

## IS\_142: A Fairer Fees Regime for International Students

### Conference believes:

1. That institutions currently have no regulation or restriction on the amount that they can charge international students for tuition fees.
2. A 2010 survey of non-EU PGT students found on average students paid £12,067 in tuition fees and had a debt of over £16,000.
3. 62% felt that the cost of studying was more expensive than expected. 38.7% stated the support they had was not enough to meet their financial needs.
4. That the majority of international students are self-funded. In 2004, it was found that 95% of pre-HE students and 85% of UG students were paying their own fees.
5. That many international students find themselves in un-foreseeable financial hardship. UKCISA found in 2004 that 23% of international students stated that they did not have enough money to live on.
6. That students who have faced crisis such as those in Syria and Egypt have faced differing levels of support from their institution.
7. That NUS has found that at least 50% of institutions do not provide international students with a fixed fee guarantee and that UUK found this to be 62%.
8. That the tax international students pay should be recognised and some if should be spent to benefit international students.
9. International students need better support on how to plan their finances.
10. Home Office Maintenance requirements are not a good indicator of what is a realistic expense in the UK. It underestimates the cost of studying in the UK. Additional guidance needs to be carefully considered and explained alongside these requirements.
11. Hidden course costs have a huge impact on international students. The department should fund these or at least be transparent about potential hidden course costs.
12. International students have no idea where their fees go to. Universities give a rough budget how much is being spent on each student and where the other amount goes.
13. NUS believes that hidden course costs should be included in the fees.

### Further believes:

1. That current fee levels can only be described as extortionate and take advantage of international students.
2. That international student fees should not increase throughout their duration of their course- even by inflation.
3. That arguments to raise it by inflation ignore the large profit margins already made with current fee levels.
4. That non-EU student fees should not be different to that of home or EU students.
5. That any funding provided students should not be cut off retrospectively.
6. Deadlines for scholarships should be closer to start dates for actual courses.
7. That institutions that recruit international students should have regulated global widening participation initiatives.
8. That institutions that recruit international students should have hardship funds that cover all amounts needed and all types of unforeseeable hardship.
9. That institutions should do more to retain international students and recruitment practices should act in the best interest of the student and not the institution.
10. Universities need to be clearer about what an international student is classified as.

### Conference resolves:

1. To campaign for a fairer fees and funding system for international students studying in the UK.
1. To do a campaign a local and national campaign on hardship funding.
  - a. The Government should provide loans to international students with special needs.
  - b. Universities should do fundraising to provide international students with scholarships and bursaries. They should get in touch with international alumni.

- c. There should be a national hardship fund for international students either by the Government or through Students' Union.
2. To launch a campaign that international students at all universities can pay their fees in instalments.
3. There should be a cap on the annual percentage increase of international student tuition fees.
4. There should be some type of accountability on the fees system for international students and it should be reviewed periodically.
5. NUS will support Students' Unions in taking local action, publicising these issues nationally and working with Students' Union in securing local press coverage.
6. NUS should pressure institutions to provide their own hardship funds.
7. NUS should set up a petition on these issues.
8. NUS should make direct representations to the Government.
9. NUS should do research into these areas and the benefits that they can bring and compare these areas to what other countries are doing.

## **IS\_143: An Immigration System That Works For Everyone**

### **Conference believes:**

1. That the UK has introduced a number of stringent policies towards international students in recent years.
2. This includes stricter visa and HTS requirements, police registration, credibility interviews, the removal of PSW and the proposed NHS levy and landlord checks.
3. These policies often discriminate based on nationality.
4. That the way these policies have been implemented have had further negative impact such as aggressive attendance monitoring at institutions.
5. That this forms part of a wider attitude towards migrants in the UK, shaped by public perception and Government rhetoric and policy.
6. Both NUS (2014) and YouGov (2013) have found that more than 50% of international students feel unwelcome due to Government policies.
7. That since 2010 there has been a 36% decline in Tier 4 visas issued.
8. That there has been the first ever decline in students at HE institutions and an 80% decline at FE.
9. That this has led to numerous college closures which have cost international students thousands of pounds.
10. 68% of the general public want to see the number of international students either stay the same or increase.
11. That NUS has campaigned for two years against attendance monitoring, credibility interviews, service standards, police registration and now the immigration bill's proposals.
12. A study by Oxford Economics found that international students in Sheffield had a net benefit of £120.3 million per year and BIS estimates the gross benefit is at least £7.9 billion a year.
13. There is no standard attendance monitoring policy for Tier 4 sponsor institutions.

### **Further believes:**

1. International students should be removed from the Government's net migration figures.
2. That the process of police registration, attendance monitoring, credibility interviews should be scrapped. They discriminate, intimidate and criminalize international students.
3. That international students rightfully feel victimised and unwelcome in the UK and that this is not "perception" but a reality.
4. International students make important economic, cultural and academic benefits and unnecessary restrictions linked to education are unjustified.
5. Where attendance monitoring happens it should not discriminate between students and never use biometric data in checks.
6. The UK should welcome the fact that all students are global citizens.

7. That retrospective applications of policy changes are unjust and unfair for students who come to the UK in good faith.
8. That if a student finds their sponsor's license revoked they should have both their fees and living costs reimbursed.
9. That NUS is firmly opposed to xenophobia and believes that recent policy changes form part of a wider movement with racist and xenophobic undercurrents.
10. That student deportations violate human rights.
11. Support from NUS as a whole and Home Students is critical in lobbying for the immigration rights of international students.
12. Commonwealth citizens should have the same immigration rights as EU citizens.
13. There should be transparent and open standardized attendance monitoring policies which work for international students.
14. Institutions should limit contacts to learning experiences and not contacts only for international students.
15. Biometric monitoring is not acceptable.
16. Freedom of movement should be accessible to all.

**Conference resolves:**

1. To campaign against stricter and discriminatory proposals and for international students to be removed from net migration figures.
2. NUS should take a more active role campaigning against inhuman deportation and detention procedures.
3. NUS should make the Immigration Bill campaign their priority and call on students unions, student union officers and local communities to take a lead on the campaign.
4. NUS Immigration Bill should campaign also target prospective, home and alumni students.
5. The NUS Immigration Bill Campaign should integrate more social media



# Zone: Education

## IS\_144: A Better International Student Experience

### Conference believes:

1. That the last comprehensive survey of international students was over ten years ago.
2. That current available surveys focus mostly on Undergraduate students and there is little available evidence for the experience of students in the private sector, further education or postgraduate study.
3. That available surveys and research suggests whilst international students broadly have a good educational and wider experience, there are serious areas for concern.
4. In 2006 UNITE found 36% of international students and 43% of UK students found it hard to get to know one another. UK students were less likely to consider an international dimension or intercultural contact as important.
5. In 2004, the British Council found only 47% of international students thought their period of study was good value for money. There appeared to be correlation between language level and integration with satisfaction and value for money. It also found:
  - a. Students were dissatisfied with the lack of integration and interaction with UK students and their local community.
  - b. Students were less impressed with their accommodation arrangements and 45% were dissatisfied with the cost of their accommodation- especially in the private rental sector.
  - c. There was a perception that support services were under-resourced and that staff were only able to support students with perhaps basic organisational or induction issues.
6. A YouthSight survey in 2013 found that 20% of international students "feel isolated and alone" and "32% of students feel that Universities are only interested in their fees."
7. The Equality Challenge Unit 2012 found numerous areas in improvement in better integrating international students in the wider university community.
8. The HEA "Teaching International Students" project identified ways the teaching and academic experience could be improved.
9. The Leadership Foundation for Higher Education has recently released a stimulus paper into the sector's use of agents (2013). It recommended that the "higher education sector should consider adopting a regulatory framework for policing the excesses of the market."
10. NUS found serious concerns about the experience of black international students. 22% had stated they were a victim of hate crime compared to 6% of home students.

### Further believes:

1. That not enough is being done to improve the international student experience within Universities and Colleges.
2. That too often University and College internationalisation strategies focus on recruitment and not the student experience.
3. That there is not enough public information on the student experience for international students.
4. That international students struggle with aspects such as integration, accommodation, and support services.
5. That all institutions should provide integration services such as acting as guarantors for international students.
6. That all institutions need to take the mental health issues of international students seriously.
7. That University support services for international students are underfunded compared to international recruitment offices.

### Conference resolves:

1. To campaign for a better international student experience.

2. To create an interactive hub for international student officers and student officers with international students in their portfolio to share success stories and get support and feedback from other officers.
3. To work with the QAA and the HEA to develop internationalisation of the curriculum.
4. To support students' unions to educate their international students about their academic rights.
5. To work with the Quality Mark for Students' Unions to ensure international students, and international student issues are included in what is considered an excellent students' union.
6. To campaign for funding for students' unions to develop integration events, similar to the PMI2 funding scheme.
7. To put more emphasis on different types of student experience. Especially of international students during new officer training, including sharing specific data on international student experiences.

## IS\_145: Integrated Housing

### Conference believes:

1. Many of the longest and strongest friendships formed by students start in institutional run accommodation.
2. This is often allocated based on a student's fee status or country of application and can lead to accommodation that is almost wholly filled with international students.
3. That such an allocation creates a housing situation which divides students based on their nationality.

### Conference further believes:

1. Separating students by nationality is discriminatory, can lead to increased levels of homesickness and make the process of integration even more difficult.
2. That having home and international students together in accommodation enriches their experience of shared living and study.

### Conference resolves:

1. To undertake research into both international and home student attitudes to their experience of institutional accommodation and segregation within it.
2. To work with unions in lobbying institutions to implement an integrated housing policy.

## IS\_146: Immigration and Xenophobia

### Conference believes:

1. Even though xenophobia is illegal in the UK, the nature of immigration laws is xenophobic
2. The government is responsible for much of the xenophobic attitudes in the current political debate.
3. The immigration debate is not based on facts.
4. Stereotyping people based on their nationality is wrong.
5. International students come from both EU and not-EU countries, and include refugees and asylum seekers
6. The international students campaign believes that xenophobia is never acceptable.
7. NUS is against the "Go Home" van campaign run by the Home Office as it promotes xenophobic attitudes
8. Dignity has no nationality
9. The impact of xenophobia needs to be uncovered and explained

### Conference resolves:

1. Campaign to change the perception of people of nationalities through the media would.
2. There should be a NUS campaign against xenophobia

3. It should be both a local and national campaign
4. NUS should encourage other unions to take on the USSU Selfie Campaign and use social media to promote positive attitudes towards people of different nationalities
5. NUS should commission research to better understand xenophobia on our campuses, this should include refugees and asylum seekers
6. NUS should create visual resources to allow students to campaign locally
7. NUS should partner with STAR to campaign for the rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in education
8. NUS should encourage an international dimension in all the work they do.
9. There should be more collaboration on equality issues between the international students officer and the liberation and sections officers.
10. NUS should support students unions to challenge xenophobic rhetoric in elections debate in May 2014 and the General election 2015

## **IS\_147: International Student Representation**

### **Conference believes:**

1. In order to promote and implement globalization across unions, there is a necessity to hold more regional forums for unions to participate in and discuss topics relevant to the international students' campaign.
2. International Students Issues should be part of the main stream activities of unions and NUS
3. International Students' Campaign should engage International students' officers as well as other sabbatical and part-time officers to better support International students.

### **Conference resolves:**

1. NUS International Students' Campaign should create a place on NUS Connect to upload best practice examples of events, activities and campaigns that are accessible to all.
2. NUS International Students' Campaign should disseminate the results of these forms to the global futures email list and put them on NUS connect so other officers and unions can benefit from the discussions and information.
3. NUS International Students' Committee should develop toolkits and basics guides for unions to follow as best practice documents to create better international student support and representative structures across all unions.
4. NUS International Students' Campaign should create an online forum for international students officers to discuss ideas and issues.
5. NUS International Students' Campaign should work with the Internationalizing your students union project and the Students without borders project to disseminate their results and resources more widely amongst international students' officers but also amongst staff and sabbatical officers in all institutions to encourage better support for international students' officers and international students.
6. NUS should encourage better training for all officers and not just those with a specific International students' remit on international students' issues.
7. NUS International Students' Campaign should create a guide to international students like the NUS Postgraduate Students' Campaign which includes an introduction to International Students' issues and examples of activities and campaigns to address them from member unions.
8. NUS International Students' Campaign should develop a strategy which can be presented at the international students' officers training event in the autumn to encourage better support for international students' officers, including future actions from the international students'

campaign.

9. NUS to support unions to include and engage both home and international students in international campaigns and social activities to encourage integration and reduce segregation.
10. NUS to encourage students' unions and provide toolkits to support, integration and university-wide inclusion, including the provision of shared accommodation.
11. NUS should provide support to students' unions to develop an International Students Day across the country.
12. Engaged international students who do not have a formal role in the union should be able to access campaigns support and information via NUS Connect or nus.org.uk

## **IS\_148: Overseas Academics**

### **Conference Resolves:**

1. That NUS International Students Campaign works with academics from overseas where appropriate, as key allies of the international students campaign.

## **IS\_149: Maximising Participation at International Students Conference**

### **Conference believes:**

1. That International Students have to attend classes during the week.
2. There could be more participation in International Students Conference if it took place on a weekend.
3. Due to the exorbitant fees that International Students pay, it can be very expensive to miss classes that are only held once.

### **Conference resolves:**

1. That NUS investigates the possibility of International Students Conference being moved to the weekend.

# Policy Passed At International Students Conference 2015

## Zone: Education

### IS\_151: Immigration System and International Students

#### Conference believes:

1. Despite past revocations, the current Tier 4 sponsorship system places the greatest risk on students and very little risk to institutions; It continues to fail to protect international students.
2. Since the June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 announcement by the Immigration minister that 60 institutions were at risk of losing their Tier 4 licence, over 12,000 students have had to find a new place to study or leave the UK; Over 53 Colleges have had their licences removed;
3. Where people are free to move across countries to study, work or for other reasons, they should have the same rights and be given the same protections as others within in that country yet international students are currently denied this in the Tier 4 sponsorship system.
4. International students have no rights to challenge the Home Office on the revocation of their institution's Tier 4 licence and cannot impact the process of revocation in any way.
5. The Home Office assembled a working group of sector and government organisations to support students but made no concessions itself within the group and acted against the success of the group to keep international students in the UK.
6. It was a clear conflict of interest for the Home Office to chair a working group to assist students in a situation they created and were actively involved in progressing.
7. The department of Business, Innovation and Skills should treat all international students affected by a sponsor revocation the same way they treated LMU students, including the support of hardship funds and coordinating the education sector to find available places.
8. It is unacceptable for the government or the sector to refuse to assist students because of the type of institution they attend or the timing of their revocation as has happened in the past.
9. Information on when, how and why Tier 4 sponsors have lost their licence in the past licence should be made clear and transparent to all students and this should be reflected in the licence rating they are given.
10. International Students in the UK should be able to have one visa for all the degrees they want to do in the UK, as is the case in some other countries.
11. Students often feel trapped in a course or institution because they don't feel they can change under the current visa system. Or they can't afford to pay for a new visa.
12. Currently some students have to reapply to a new visa every year as colleges and universities declare each year a different course.
13. International Students should be able to change courses or institutions without having to apply for a new visa.
14. Many other countries who are major recruiters of international students have systems which emphasize student choice over sponsorship.

15. International students need funded and supported, independent immigration and academic advice; this should also be available outside of the market-style university and college systems.
16. QAA guidance should reflect that international students should be provided with independent and confidential advice on both immigration and academic issues; this should be mandatory and not a voluntary part of the code.
17. The immigration system should not be directly connected with one institution – students should hold a visa themselves to study where they want, when they want.
18. Institutions who lose their Tier 4 licence should be mandated to refund international students their fees.
19. UK government should track marketing in a digital way to ensure “bogus” colleges are not marketing internationally.

**Conference resolves:**

1. NUS to lobby to change the immigration system to remove the risk that international students unknowingly take on when coming to study in the UK.
2. NUS to lobby for a static course information web-tool which can be engaged whenever a sponsor loses their licence for any reason.
3. NUS to continue to campaign for a comprehensive and mandatory student protection scheme for international students.
4. NUS to lobby for international students to have access to their own immigration records prior to a visa application.
5. NUS to campaign for a more transparent rating systems for sponsors so international students can judge who has been a reliable sponsor and is more likely to offer them a secure position to complete their studies.
6. NUS should make international students a priority campaign to ensure that all students understand the barriers for international students (hidden costs, visa barriers) and home, EU and Non-EU students come together to defend access to education for international students.
7. NUS should campaign for a requirement in the Tier 4 licence that institutions guarantee a refund if their licence is revoked.
8. NUS should submit to the QAA review on the International Student Guidance that all QAA reviewed institutions must provide international students with independent and confidential advice on both immigration and academic issues and this should be part of the mandatory code.
9. UKCISA should be funded to provide more independent and confidential immigration advice to students.
10. NUS should campaign for a visa system which allows international students to switch course, institution or degree without having to pay for a new visa.

## **IS\_152: Recruitment and Information**

**Conference believes:**

1. Currently there are Key Information Statistics (KIS) and Wider Information Statistics (WIS) but they fail to provide the information International Students need to make informed decisions on where they study.
2. Information which is specific to international students can be found in a number of online forms and from some information via telephone but is difficult to navigate and is not consistent or in-depth enough and does not allow students to compare types or individual institutions on their provisions specifically for international students.
3. Existing public information for students who want to study in the UK often presume a certain amount of guidance and advice is universally available which is untrue for many international students.
4. While the National Student Survey (NSS) forms part of KIS and WIS information and the results are shared with students unions, neither is true for the International Student Barometer, the only widely used survey on international student specific perspectives and issues.
5. Many international students currently find advice and guidance through the use of educational agents or via online peer forms on studying in the UK.
6. The British Council's 2011 'London Statement' of ethical principles for Agents, a voluntary scheme, has failed to prevent at least two major issues of widespread abuse of trust for international students since August 2013 alone; the loss of tens of thousands of pounds by South Korean students who paid an agent to transfer fees, and the deportation or risk of deportation for 60,000 international students when UK based agents were involved in fraudulent activity in the English language testing sector.
7. An investigation by the Times Higher Education in 2012 showed that UK institutions alone spend £60 million on agents' fees to recruit more than 50,000 international students.
8. International students simply do not have enough information or reliable and independent sources of that information to make reliable choices on where to study in the UK.
9. There is not enough external scrutiny and accountability of how in-country recruitment agencies market British universities and colleges to prospective students.
10. This leads to students arriving in the UK only to see the institution not matching their expectations.

#### **Conference resolves:**

1. To campaign for better public information on specific areas of interest to international students who study in the UK including the types of institutions and courses available in an easily comparable way.
2. To lobby the Home Office to produce more student accessible and specific information on all institutions with Tier 4 licences – including private colleges and the removal of the universal "Highly Trusted Sponsor" system.
3. For NUS to support students unions to campaign on better transparency from institutions on how they work with agents and ensure good practice from agents they use.
4. Lobby for a national survey on international student experiences which uses the NSS model of public information for prospective students and is shared with Students' Unions to help improve the international student experience.
5. To demand the establishment of an oversight body for the activities of in-country recruitment agencies.
6. To ensure that the existence of this body is proactively communicated to students.

## IS\_153: Recognition of Qualifications

### Conference believes:

1. That there is a lack of consistency in the systems that allow the comparison of qualifications within Europe and the wider world.
2. That support and information needs to be available to allow students to make informed decisions about courses of study and with options for converting qualifications, when leaving and entering the UK.
3. That when students leave the country they have studied in they may experience problems in persuading their home country of the value of their qualification.
4. That this situation can lead to students having to pay additional conversion costs and that this uncertainty can affect their employability
5. That the aspirations expressed in the Bologna Agreement and confirmed with the creation of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) that qualifications across Europe should be compatible, coherent and comparable by 2020

### Conference resolves:

1. To conduct or locate research into the current level of progress being made into the harmonisation of qualifications at Bachelor, Masters and Doctoral levels and to make this research available to students' unions.
2. To make the case to the UK Government and sector agencies for demonstrable progress to be made towards achieving the 2020 deadline.
3. To raise the issue with the European Students' Union (ESU) for them to make the case to European wide sector and governmental agencies

## IS\_154: Diversity Training For Teachers

### Conference believes:

1. Lecturers may not be aware of certain cultural sensitivities of students in their classrooms.
2. Use of British slang and dialect by staff can be alienating and confusing for international students
3. Lecturers should be kept up to date with the latest teacher training
4. Anonymous feedback methods must available for all students
5. Lecturers and other administrative staff would benefit from training and guidance to help them with inclusive approaches to their work
6. Course specific terminology may not be included in general pre-entry English language training

### Conference resolves:

1. To explore existing guidance given to university & college staff regarding international students issues and cultural diversity awareness
2. To campaign for greater implementation of these policies and practices



3. To explore existing schemes in universities & colleges that support international students with course specific English terminology such as "English for scientists"
4. To provide unions with guidance on how to implement or lobby for such schemes at their university or college

## **IS\_155: Reaffirming and Enhancing Our Policy on International Fees**

### **Conference believes:**

1. The motion "A Fairer Fees Regime for International Students" submitted by ISC in 2014 provides a good basis for NUS policy and campaigns on international fees.
2. Some institutions state that they will raise fees with inflation, but have instead raised fees above inflation.

### **Conference resolves:**

1. Continue to work on the areas highlighted in the policy "A Fairer Fees Regime for International Students", passed in 2014.
2. Hold institutions to account where they raise tuition fees above inflation.
3. Continue to lobby and campaign for regulation of international students' fees, including a cap on the maximum tuition fee, differentiated by subject, and cap on how much institutions can raise international fees each year.
4. Lobby government to increase the number of scholarships available to encourage the best and brightest talent from around the world to study in the UK.
5. To work with other national campaigning organisations on the issue of international fees and create a coalition of voices to pressure government and institutions.
6. Support students' unions to involve themselves in the decision-making process on the level of international fees at their institution.

# Zone: Welfare

## Motion 5a: International Disabled Students' Fund

### IS\_156: International Students in Crisis

#### Conference believes:

1. In 2013 the UK department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) recommended "that universities and scholarship awarding bodies use their own discretion over fees, and, where possible, use their welfare and hardship funds to help support [Syrian] students" in crisis due to the civil war [1].
2. The Responding to International Students' In Crisis Committee has been established by BIS with membership from NUS, the International Unit and several government departments to support students on a national level when crisis in their home country impacts their study in the UK.
3. There is no safety net for International Students when they find themselves in personal hardship.
4. There is not enough information given to international students about funds they may be entitled to and equally what they are not entitled to.
5. There is also a lack of communication from institutions when they are approached, while change of policies are not always relayed.
6. Scholarships are currently not offered at all institutions and the amount differs between each one, leaving international students in the position where they may want to study at a certain institution because of its credibility or the course they offer. But are then subject to not being awarded any scholarship or bursary.

#### Conference further believes:

1. International Students can face a range of crisis situations while studying in the UK including: conflict and civil war, national disasters, political upheavals of their home government and political mismanagement in their home country.
2. A crisis at home can have a significant financial impact on students in the UK as it becomes difficult or impossible to move money out of countries or sources of funding are unable to continue to provide support for students.
3. Financial difficulties can lead to students without money for food or accommodation; some students have been made homeless by landlords as they are unable to pay their rent during the crisis.
4. More than just financial, a crisis at home can have a significant impact on a students' mental and physically well-being and make it difficult to complete course work.
5. International students contribute greatly to the UK education system, bringing an internationalised perspective and different experiences into UK colleges and universities, as well as £8 billion in financial contributions; the UK has a duty of care to these students.

#### Conference resolves:

1. To support students' unions in a locally run campaign to develop a local strategy to support international students who face crisis at home while they study in the UK, including but not limited to a discretionary/hardship fund.

2. To work to improve the ability of the RISC committee to make consistent and effective interventions on a national level to support international students in crisis.
3. To work with external organisations such as the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) and committees such as the Access to Higher Education Working Group (AHEWG) to ensure that international students facing crisis have access to independent and helpful advice and guidance.
4. To encourage institutions to increase dialogue between student services and international students to make them aware of what is available to them.
5. A hardship fund needs to be created to ensure that international students have protection if they come into financial or personal difficulties during their studies.
6. This would be based on the Access to Learning Fund that is currently available to home students in certain institutions.
7. Encourage universities to encourage donors to make scholarships more accessible to all international students.
8. To campaign on bringing in a cap of International Student fees nationally.

[1] <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmhansrd/cm130204/text/130204w0004.htm>

## **IS\_157: Protecting International Students**

### **Conference believes:**

1. The OFT/CMA investigation raised a number of areas where institutions are not complying with consumer law.
2. International students are more vulnerable to breaches of consumer protection law, because they are often unable to stay in the country and pursue a complaint of a refund.
3. Students should be entitled to refunds and/or compensation in cases where their course was not provided, was closed, or radically altered.

### **Conference resolves:**

1. NUS ISC should spread awareness of consumer protection legislation and how it relates to international students through its member unions.
2. NUS should continue working with CMA to ensure that universities are complying with the law, and support students' unions to submit evidence of wrongdoing to the relevant authorities.

## **IS\_158: Protecting Academic Judgment and Student Welfare in the Immigration System**

### **Conference believes:**

1. Length of study, progression and mitigating circumstances are for a university or college to judge, not the home office
2. Women international student should be able to take a maternity leave from their studies within the UK and not have to reapply for a new visa.
3. Students with personal circumstances who have to withdraw from study should not have that count towards their maximum time of study per level.

4. Students with personal circumstances granted a withdrawal of study by their university or college should not have to leave the UK if they intend to return to study.

**Conference resolves:**

1. Campaign for UKVI to delegate all judgement over length of study, progression and mitigating circumstances to the university or college where the student studies.
2. Campaign for international students to have the right to have maternity leave, or withdraw for personal circumstances and remain in the UK if they intend to return to their university or college to study and for this period to not count towards any maximum time of study under the current system.

## **IS\_159: Scrap NHS Fees for International Students**

**Conference believes:**

1. The NHS fees introduced with the Immigration Act of 2014 should not be pushed on International students.
2. No International student should have to pay the NHS fees. In particular, current International students as they decided to study in this country under different conditions.
3. The Universities recruiting International students, under their Internalisation strategy should take the responsibility to provide healthcare to their students.
4. Students are less likely to need access to healthcare on a recurrent basis and not likely to abuse the healthcare system.
5. All students within any University and College should have equal access to healthcare and other services to have equal access to a successful education.
6. If all universities and colleges came together to create a Health insurance scheme, it would be cheaper than the current NHS charge for International students.

**Conference resolves:**

1. To campaign for Universities and Colleges to provide free healthcare to International students until the NHS fees are removed completely either through:
  - a. Paying the fees for NHS, initially
  - b. Or to create a Health insurance scheme for International students created from the UK Universities and colleges, in which if a healthcare emergency exists then students have direct access to healthcare.
2. To campaign for Universities and Colleges to work together with student Unions to scrap the NHS fees for International students to ensure the equality within their Universities and Colleges, by and keep promoting the diversity within their Universities and Colleges.
3. To campaign to make Students Unions across the country to make their Universities and Colleges to input in their Internalisation strategy that they will make sure that comprehensive healthcare will be equally accessible for all their students.

## IS\_1510: Everyone Has the “Right to Rent”

### Conference believes:

1. No one should be made homeless; making someone homeless based on their immigration status is wrong.
2. The UK government should not ask landlords to check the immigration status of anyone.
3. That there are significant challenges facing all student in securing accommodation, but especially international students.
4. Often international students are required to prove they have savings in their accounts for significant periods of the tenancy.
5. Some students are made to pay six to twelve months of their rent in advance.
6. The deadlines for applying for accommodation are too tight for international students to properly view their accommodation options.
7. Landlords will soon be required to check the immigration status of all their tenants, which will significantly decrease the likelihood of them taking on international students due to increased paperwork.

### Conference resolves:

1. To support the JSWI/NUS/Shelter/Generation right to rent survey on migrants experiences of the
2. To campaign against any attempt to expand or continue the existing pilot in West Midlands on right to rent checks.
3. To support existing local actions against rights to rent checks in the West Midlands.
4. To promote the success of universities who have become guarantors for international students.
5. Promote and campaign with politicians and local leaders who support international students, to give universities evidence of success in this work.

## Zone: Society & Citizenship

### IS\_1511: Post-Study Work Visa and Reforming Of the Tiers

#### Conference believes:

1. Policy passed at International students conference IS10 – Post-Study Work (PSW):
2. NUS research shows that international students value the opportunity to work and gain work experience during and after studies but don't have enough information and guidance on how to do so and PSW experience is essential for a professional accreditation in 61% of international students' chosen areas of study.
3. International students like anybody else should have the right to work in the UK during and after study.
4. NUS research from 2012 and 2014 show that international students value the opportunity to work and gain work experience during and after studies as they have consistently put these in the top 5 reasons they come to study in the UK.
5. There is not enough information for employers to understand how they can hire international students under the immigration rules and how international students can benefit their places of work; In the 2014 NUS survey 48% of international students were told they were ineligible to apply for a job because of their visa status despite being against equality legislation and over a third (35%) had been rejected from a job after making an application because of it.
6. While Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur), Tier 2, Tier 4 and Tier 5 all offer options for international students to work post-study, most international students don't know about them, with the 2014 NUS survey revealing that 47% of international students are unaware of Tier 2 and 41% were unaware of Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) as an option to work and start a business.
7. According to a 2014 NUS survey, gaining work experience in the UK is essential for a professional accreditation in 61% of international students' chosen areas of study.

#### Conference further believes:

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment".<sup>i</sup>
2. Removal of the PSW visa in 2012 had negative impact on International students' work opportunities
3. International students should have the right to work during study, which should be more flexible, and include self-employment
4. The current employment system is confusing for students and employers; it needs to be reformed
5. There is not enough guidance for international students on employment opportunities in the UK
6. Unrealistic salaries, and not enough Tier 2 sponsors in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and outside of London stop international students from getting PSW.
7. Creative Arts students are restricted by Tier 2; their work is often freelance, part-time, and based on portfolios, meaning they may never meet Tier 2 requirements.
8. Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) visas need to be reformed and should serve as a potential route for permanent residence.

9. Tier 5 is underused and can be more useful for international students seeking work experience in the UK as it doesn't have the restrictions of Tier 2, and reflects the needs of international students in post-graduation work
10. Tier 5 practices should be applied more consistently
11. The principle that some Tier 5 sponsors use that the employer pays for the visa and not the student should be promoted

**Conference resolves:**

1. To campaign for restoration of the PSW Visa.
2. To campaign nationally with Students' Unions for better guidance for international students on employment and inform international students of their employment rights
3. To lobby the Home Office to provide better information for employers on hiring international students
4. To lobby the Government to reform existing work routes to ensure International students have equal access to work including extending the Tier 4 period after completing their course, lowering salary requirements and accounting for regional salaries, changing the policy on job titles and extending Tier 4 part-time working rules for more flexible hours and to include freelance work.
5. To fight for a dedicated support structure for SMEs and charities to hire international students
6. To lobby the home office to have better public information for employers on how and why to hire international students in the UK from the UK government, and for international students on what their work rights are in the UK
7. To develop partnerships with AIESC and other organisations who help international students work in the UK post-study and UK students work abroad to promote internationalisation in the post-study work environment.
8. To campaign the Government to improve additional routes for post study work in the UK, in order to increase the access of UK employers to skilled non-EEA graduates under these routes. In particular, the following routes should be reviewed: Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) visa; Tier 4 (Doctorate Extension Scheme); Tier 5 (Temporary Worker - Government Authorised Exchange).
9. To lobby/campaign The Government to commission an in depth independent review of the impacts of policy around international students and immigration on the UK's share of the international student market. This should consider: Direct and indirect impacts on UK higher education and businesses; Factors leading to the reduction of international student intake from some key markets including India and Pakistan, and growth within other markets including China, and the likely trajectories of these markets into the future. International competitors – particularly within the Anglophone market – and their potential for future impact on the UK's market share. Whether the UK's ability to keep producing global leaders in various fields was now being eroded as a result of the current rules.
10. For NUS to develop resources for students' unions on how they can hire international students
11. To lobby the Department of Business, Innovation & Skills and work with partner international groups to develop and promote Tier 5 as an alternative to Tier 2
12. To work with the UK Council for International Student Affairs, the National Association of Student Employment Services, and the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services to develop positive relationships with employers.

## **IS\_1512: International Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender (LGBT) Students and Asylum Seekers in the UK**

### **Conference believes:**

1. There are 76 countries that ban the homosexual acts, furthermore, 5 countries that punish homosexual acts with death penalty.
2. International LGBT members in those countries are facing the risk of their lives.
3. International LGBT students have the challenges for coming out (express themselves freely).
4. The countries, with the effective protection for LGBT member like the UK, can save many lives by the asylum policies and support the development of International LGBT students.
5. However, the UK Border Agency requires the complex process for the asylum seekers, furthermore, restrictive policies to access to social benefit, education and employment.
6. The asylum seekers are also facing the risk of deportation if the UK Border Agency questions the nature of their sexual orientation.
7. On 11th November 2014, Judith, a lesbian from Uganda where she was seriously tortured, was facing imminent deportation, because the United Kingdom does not believe who she is. With the right support, on 27th December 2014, Judith was not deported and she was released from the UK Detention centre.

### **Conference resolves:**

1. NUS International will work closely with NUS LGBT in campaigning asylum policies for LGBT members.
2. Raising awareness about the problems of LGBT asylum in the universities.
3. Extending solidarity to the international LGBT movement, working with organisations like Stonewall, with the focus on international students and asylum seekers from the LGBT community.
4. Working with European Student Union and IGLYO to promote equality policies.

## **IS\_1513: Keep EU Closer to UK**

### **Conference believes:**

1. The UK should remain a member of the EU to promote universal human rights, peace, stability and free movement within the EU and around the world.
2. The EU has not only enabled the free movement of millions of people across national borders and facilitated cultural exchange, but has done so while protecting their rights within the countries they travel to.
3. The UK's membership in the EU enables over 140,000 students to travel for study between the UK and Europe each year, which enhances the educational and cultural diversity of our colleges and universities as well as the educational experiences of the students who travel.
4. The UK's membership in the EU allows EU and UK graduates and apprentices to follow their career paths without the constraints of borders.
5. The aims of the Bologna process, to increase the mobility of qualifications and funding for education, should be encouraged but are falling short of supporting students to study freely in the EU.
6. The aims of the Bologna process are further undermined when the UK government unfairly targets students from specific EU member states to provide additional evidence of residency for students' loans in a clearly discriminatory way, motivated by a negative press rhetoric against Bulgarian and Romanian students.



7. Television shows such as, 'The Romanians are coming', are examples of racism and xenophobia on behalf of UK media and can have a negative impact on the student experience in the UK.
8. The UK's proposal to increase the residency requirement for student funding in England and Wales from 3 to 5 years will prohibit many young people leaving school in the UK from attending university with their peers.
9. The UK government's increasing rhetoric against European citizens in the UK is wrong, and has resulted in discrimination and unfair treatment of European students in the UK.
10. The EU has played a crucial role in protecting and enhancing Human Rights which is being threatened by the UK government's unhelpful and unjustified position on the European Court of Human Rights.

**Conference resolves:**

1. To campaign for the UK to remain a member of the EU in any EU referendum with free movement at the centre.
2. To promote the values of mobility in education and the exchange of ideas and knowledge across borders within the EU and across the world.
3. To campaign against changing the residency rules for student finance from 3 years to 5 years.
4. To lobby the UK education sector and apprentice providers to increase access for UK students and apprentices to study abroad with the Erasmus+ programme.
5. To work with the European Students Union to campaign on a European level and actively lobby UK Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) when European Parliamentary decisions will impact EU or UK students.
6. To proactively engage with the European Students Union to ensure the voices of students studying in the UK are heard at the European level.

## **IS\_1514: Opposition to Bans on International Students Based On Their Nationality**

**Conference believes:**

1. University of Massachusetts Amherst announced on February 12 that students from Iran couldn't enrol in specific programs in the College of Engineering and in the College of Natural Sciences.
2. This is not the first time students have been banned/expelled based on their nationality around the world.
3. In mid. 2013 and the Norwegian authorities set practices to restrict Iranian students and skilled workers based on domestic export control laws and international sanctions against Iran.
4. 63 students were given notices to leave the country immediately based on these restrictions.

**Conference further believes:**

1. The University of Massachusetts Amherst faced a heavy backlash and has since lifted the controversial ban barring Iranian students from graduate science and engineering programs.

**Conference resolves:**

1. Conference wholeheartedly condemned the explosion and restrictions of students based on their nationality.
2. NUS ISC should research and find out if any such practices take place anywhere else in the world against any nationals and get in touch with local groups campaigning against them.
3. NUS ISC should show solidarity with anyone being discriminated against based on nationality, religion, race, gender or sexuality.
4. NUS ISC Should ensure no such practices are taking place in the UK officially or unofficially.
5. NUS ISC to raise this concern with the wider student body and get NUS to officially condemn such actions to raise more awareness.

## IS\_1515: Free Cyprus

### Conference believes:

1. 2014 is the 40 year mark from the Turkish Invasion.
2. Turkey invaded with any army of 43000 men.
3. Turkey has occupied the 37% of land ever since.
4. 200000 Greek Cypriots were expelled from their homes; that was 32% of the population in 1974.
5. 3000 innocent citizens were killed.
6. 1400 Greek Cypriots remain missing until today.
7. United Nations (UN) condemned the Turkish Invasion. – [Resolution 353 (1974)]
8. In 1983, Turkey announces the creation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC).
9. United Nations (UN) condemned this action [Resolution 541 (1983) & Resolution 550 (1983)].
10. The EU and other international and regional organizations have adopted similar positions.
11. For all legal and political purposes, the international community recognizes only the Republic of Cyprus created in 1960 and its government, even though the government cannot currently exercise its authority in areas under military occupation by Turkey.
12. Turkey still deprives the displaced Greek Cypriots of their right to return to their homes and properties. This has given rise to appeals to the European Court of Human Rights, which has issued major decisions on Turkey's violations of the European Convention.

### Conference further believes:

1. No refugee should not be allowed to return home once the conflict has ended.
2. All nations should be free.
3. No nation should be allowed to occupy another.
4. Turkey should withdraw their army from Cyprus and allow all Cypriots to return to their homes.

### Conference resolves:

1. To condemn the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus 1974.
2. To condemn the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC).
3. To support the protest for a Free Cyprus on November 15th outside the Turkish Embassy.
4. NUS International Students Campaign to attend on the day and encourage International students to go as a group to the protest on November 15th.

## IS\_1516: The Right to Work Should Be Equal for All

**Conference believes:**

1. The sponsorship system for employed has failed.
2. Migrants should be able to apply for any job they are qualified for and the employer should decide who is the best candidate.
3. There should be no labour market test for any job
4. Employers should not have to get a sponsorship licence to hire anyone from outside the UK
5. Companies should not have to account to anyone why they have hired people from outside the UK
6. Right to work should be equal for all.
7. Students should be judged students if they are successful in their education; there should be no hourly restriction on work.
8. Attendance monitoring policies should be based on students welfare and academic success, not on reporting to the UKV&I.
9. Employers should not have to get a sponsorship licence to hire anyone who has graduated from a UK University or College

**Conference resolves:**

1. Campaign for employers to not have to account to anyone why they have hired people from outside the UK
2. Lobby and if necessary start a petition Ministers to remove any requirement or accountability for employers to say why they hired an employee from outside the UK.
3. NUS lobby for a full inquiry into the failures of the sponsorship system and into how to reform immigration policy without the sponsorship system.
4. NUS lobby for research into how long it takes for international students to find a job and any barriers and opportunities in that process.
5. Until we can remove the sponsorship system, NUS continue to lobby for the post-study work visa for all students who graduate from a UK university, college or private college.
6. Until we can remove the sponsorship system, NUS lobby for a removal of costs to the employers to obtain any licence and the removal of all salary expectations, job titles and levels as a requirement for a Tier 2 or Tier 5 visa.
10. NUS to support students' unions to campaign locally for attendance monitoring policies to be based on students welfare and academic success, not on reporting to the UKV&I.

**IS\_1517: Missing Students in Guerrero, Mexico #WeAreAllAyotzinapa****Conference notes:**

1. On September 26, 2014 teacher students from Ayotzinapa, Guerrero were brutally attacked,
2. Members of the municipal police shot and killed six students, wounded more than twenty and detained forty-three of them. The detained students were taken into custody by the municipal police, in an attack witnessed by the Mexican army, which did not intercede, and since then the students have been described as officially 'disappeared,'
3. That 2015 is the "Year of Mexico in the United Kingdom" and the "Year of the United Kingdom in Mexico"

**Conference believes:**

1. That the Mexican government has failed to give a concrete answer of what happened to these students, and has ultimately failed to bring anyone to justice and punish the perpetrators at all levels of society for the attack on the Ayotzinapa students.
2. That the opportunity provided by the "Year of Mexico in the United Kingdom" and the "Year of the United Kingdom in Mexico" in 2015 to promote better understanding between the countries should be utilised to raise awareness on the issue and create a climate for action
3. That international public opinion should exercise pressure on the Mexican government on this issue.

**Conference resolves:**

1. To strongly condemn the attack on the Ayotzinapa teaching students.
2. That students' unions should urge their MPs to sign the "Early day motion 469"  
(<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2014-15/469>)
3. To urge the British government to condemn the events and pressurise the Mexican government to conduct a real investigation into the matter and cease the repression of students.
4. To release a statement of solidarity with the ongoing protest by the Mexican students in the UK against the Mexican state.

# Zone: Union Development

## IS\_1518: International Student Representation

### Conference believes:

1. In the current revocation crisis for international students, most students did not have a local voice as they did not have a students' union or where they did, it's autonomy and independence was not supported or protected.
2. The majority of students at private colleges, where students representation is not developed, supported or protected, are international students from either within or outside the EU.
3. Many international students impacted by Tier 4 licence revocation or in Private Colleges can never be NUS members as they don't have a students' union, or the protection or support to create one capable of being accepted as members.
4. The 1994 Education Act, which obliges public institutions to support their students to form student representation (including through financial support) and to make sure they are free to represent students, does not cover private colleges, which is unjustified and unfair to students studying at these institutions.
5. NUS has developed strong student representation and engagement support for some types of institutions to ensure students are represented but they do not fit the private college model, nor does NUS actively work with these institutions to ensure student representation is strong and students are protected as representatives.
6. Within NUS member students' unions, representation for international students is limited to almost exclusively part-time voluntary positions and very few receive support or training to represent students or work within their union effectively.
7. International students have issues such as immigration compliance, fees and funding, access to support, advice and guidance, and a connection to international affairs that is experienced by no other group of student.
8. In addition to how immigration impacts their academic experience, international students can face specific academic issues such as English language provision, new education systems, qualification transfers and career application.
9. There are clear reasons for separate, supported and effective international student representation within students' unions and a clear need for better student representation in areas where currently international students are not represented at all.
10. That the NUS International Students' campaign is under-resourced, having just one full time officer and one permanent staff member to represent 450,000 international students.

### Conference resolves:

1. For the International Students' Officer to work with the NUS Vice President Union Development ensure that international students who are in colleges without a students' union have clear and specific support to develop student representation.
2. To campaign for all education institutions in the UK, regardless of how they are funded, to be included in the 1994 Education Act.
3. To undertake a mapping exercise to better understand how international students are represented in students unions and how international students' officers feel supported, engaged and effective in their roles.
4. To continue to develop from the work started by the *NUS/UKCISA Internationalising your Students' Union* project in 2010.

5. Work to ensure that all international students feel they have a voice in the education, locally, nationally and internationally.
6. Holding a national open forum for international students to voice their concerns and to request international students officers in constituent member unions to report issues arising on their campus to the nus international students campaign
7. To dedicate more resources and increase annually the financial support for the International Students' campaign to support and represent international students nationally.
8. To constitute an international students' campaign fund to support international students' representation and internationalisation projects in Students' Unions.

## **IS\_1519: International Student Societies**

### **Conference believes:**

1. International Students societies are an important part of the higher education experience, they promote bonding, belonging, support, and providing information for students
2. Having these societies as part of the wider union activities promotes inclusivity and integration on campus

### **Conference resolves:**

1. To encourage constituent unions to support and provide resources for the creation of and continued sustainability of international student societies and groups.
2. To encourage engagement with international student societies among both home and international students
3. To explore existing initiatives such as global fiestas etc on campuses and provide unions with support and guidance on creating their own events.

## **IS\_1520: Diversity in Representation**

### **Conference believes:**

1. That student union should have the same diversity of staff that reflects the diversity of the student population.

### **Conference resolves:**

1. Student union should encourage engagement with ethnic groups that are under - represented.
2. Student union should investigate the cause of the under-representation of major ethnic groups, such as Chinese and Korean.

## **IS\_1521: Introduce A Full Time International Officer In Every Students' Union In The UK.**

### **Conference believes:**

1. In the University of Essex (and University of Sheffield) there is currently such a position. The full time officer does not represent just International students in the meaning of fees, but all students who come from another country or are home students with a cultural and religious heritage.

2. He/She is the officer who assist and welcomes all students from around the world, organises events festivals with the collaboration of liberation officers (depending on the nature of the event).
3. Assists the Education officer in matters of academic nature raising the extra issues internationals (including EU) are facing, to achieve academic success.
4. Assists the Community and Welfare officer in matters of academic nature raising the extra issues internationals (including EU) are facing, to make their lives in the UK more comfortable.
5. He/She chairs the International Students' Association, the committee of the International Officer.

**Conference resolves:**

1. To encourage and support constituent unions to create part time international students' officers in every union
2. That each of these officers would have a budget for their work
3. To work towards creating full time international students' officers in every union
4. The Aim of introducing this new position improves representation of international students in each university. The model of this role should be the University of Essex SU has created.

**Motion 23: Post-Study Work Visas**

# 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 20<sup>th</sup> February 2016, PM David Cameron announced the date for the EU referendum: it will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.
2. Background: 2.3 million EU citizens are resident in the UK<sup>1</sup>.
3. EU citizens are allowed to vote in the UK for devolved Parliaments and Assemblies, local authorities and European Parliament<sup>2</sup>. 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 UK<sup>3</sup>.
5. Qualifying Commonwealth and Irish citizens are allowed to vote<sup>4</sup>.

#### 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 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.

---

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

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

<sup>3</sup> <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?>

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



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 threshold<sup>5</sup>).

#### **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).
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.

---

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

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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 other 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.



## National Union of Students

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

 0845 5210 262

[www.nusconnect.org.uk](http://www.nusconnect.org.uk)

For general event enquiries contact:

 [events@nus.org.uk](mailto:events@nus.org.uk)

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

 [executiveoffice@nus.org.uk](mailto:executiveoffice@nus.org.uk)