SUBJECT LINE: [insert uni name] students need your help. #StudentsDeserveBetter

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I am a student / student leader [delete as relevant] at [insert University name], and I am writing to you because myself and thousands of students like me are being subjected to treatment and conditions that are unacceptable.

We are asking for your support to ensure the government and universities to commit to: **upholding our basic legal rights**, with no different treatment to any other member of the public; **the right to leave accommodation and our courses** with no financial penalties; **fair treatment during lockdowns**, including rent rebates, food and welfare support; **an effective strategy for education**, including effective test and trace and high quality online learning.

When COVID hit, students all over the country had their education disrupted and their student experience changed significantly. For students like myself/For my students this has meant [Talk about your own experiences here and any problems you have encountered such as –

* Lack of access to online learning
* Insufficient supplies to self-isolate
* Being stuck in rental contracts
* Unable to access tests for COVID-19

Talk about as many or as little as you would like to]

Despite this, we did what we were told to do to tackle this virus. Not only did we abide by lockdown rules, we also went the extra mile for our loved ones, our local communities and the most vulnerable. We raised money for the NHS, we shopped for our elderly and vulnerable neighbours and even hosted online events to maintain a sense of community, all while still working hard studying in our homes. Our Students’ Unions also worked relentlessly in working with universities in keeping our education going. [Talk about any positive actions and campaigns that your SU has take, such as lobbying for no detriment policies, rent refunds, financial hardship packages and providing food packages for students].

Now, our futures feel like they are in jeopardy. We are locked down in halls and trapped in private accommodation contracts. We have not been able to meet people, make friends, and build the support systems we need at university. It really feels as though we are missing out on what a university experience is truly about.

We were told that we would be safe, and we feel let down. We deserve better than this – from the government and universities.

So, we’re writing to you, as part of NUS’ #StudentsDeserveBetter campaign, to ask for lobby the government on our behalf to:

* **Uphold students' basic legal rights** – ensure students are not treated differently to other members of the public or scapegoated in any way. Under no circumstances should students be restricted, threatened or policed by private security forces.
* **The right to leave without financial detriment** – including exiting accommodation contracts to access education entirely online, deferring or permanently dropping out of the course.
* **Fair treatment during accommodation lockdowns** – rent reimbursements for lockdown periods and free internet access, care packages with food, household products, wellbeing materials and general necessities, and targeted educational & mental health support, with facilitation of social activity.
* **An effective strategy for education now and for post-COVID recovery** – Now: an effective test & trace system in place with asymptomatic testing, a move to online teaching as default and immediate financial & wellbeing support. Post-COVID: investment into digital infrastructure and mental health support. Future: a new strategy that delivers lifelong, funded and accessible education for everyone in society.

All these measures are even more essential as students are faced with the prospect of further lockdowns over Christmas, the ever-increasing local lockdown rules and the continued poor treatment of students all over the country. We need you to fight for us now, more than ever, because #StudentsDeserveBetter than this.

I would be very grateful if you could show your support for this campaign by [sharing](https://www.nusconnect.org.uk/nus-uk/students-deserve-better) the demands on your social media accounts, signing and sharing our [petition](https://email-nus.org.uk/p/5BGA-4TF/studentsdeservebetter) or writing the Chancellor to call for funding to be directed for the measures.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind Regards,

[insert name]

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