

Vote Rob Simkins for President of NUS Wales

#RobForTheJob



My name is Rob Simkins and I'm standing to be your next NUS Wales President. 2019-20 looks to be a challenging year to be a student in Wales; between mental health crises, housing issues, Brexit, and Wales-wide reforms to education, it has never been more important for the voices of students in Wales to be heard and listened to so that we can help shape our society. Elect me to see an NUS Wales that is effective, efficient and influential within our society to defend and extend the rights of all students in Wales.

Student Health & Wellbeing

Mental health and wellbeing among students continues to be a crisis, whether you're in college, university or learning in the workplace as an apprentice. Too many students are still unable to access the support that they need or are forced to wait for weeks or months before being able to share their burden with professional help.

A vote for me is a vote for:

A tireless and Wales-wide campaign for accessible, free and well-resourced health and wellbeing support services for all students in Wales, no matter what you study, where you study and how you study.

Better links between local health services and students so that you can access support outside of term time or away from college or university and for a better-connected sector, working together to overcome poor mental health in students.

More work to make it easier to access the support you need in your chosen language.

A campaign for a student-designed baseline level of support, so that more students know their rights and are able to hold their colleges and universities to account when things go wrong.

Brexit

The UK's decision to leave the EU in 2016 poses significant levels of risk for students in Wales. We risk losing world-renowned academic staff and study-abroad opportunities, while seeing growing levels of intolerance and hate crime within our communities by an emboldened far-right extremist movement.

A vote for me is a vote for:

A Wales-wide campaign for a People's Vote on any final Brexit deal. This gives the two million young people unable to vote in 2016 have the chance to have their voices heard on politics that will affect them the most, for the longest period of time.

Concrete promises and guarantees from the Welsh and UK governments that student opportunities will be protected, no matter the exit scenario.

A continued fight against the violence and discrimination faced by minority groups and protected characteristics in our colleges, on our campuses and in our communities; because Wales should always be a warm and welcoming society, no matter your gender, ethnicity or sexuality.



'I think Rob is the perfect person to succeed me as NUS Wales President. His knowledge of the sector coupled with his energy and enthusiasm are just some of the reasons why I'll be voting #RobForTheJob'

The National Union of Students

NUS is going through an unprecedented and challenging time. With so many conflicting viewpoints and agendas, I promise to help students in Wales cut through the noise and mobilise our National Union in Wales and the UK to fight for the things that our members care about, I will:
Fight to protect NUS Wales from any further cuts or reduced capabilities, so that we can keep winning for students in Wales.

Make it easier for all of us to have our voices heard in shaping the future of NUS, so that it is financially stable and working on the things that we care about in a student-led and democratic manner.

Work to make the NUS Commercial services, such as TOTUM, more relevant and successful, so that our members can put the pounds back in their pockets and in the pockets of our Students' Unions. Keep up the engagement and help to break down the silos in Wales. Many of our students face the same problems, FE, HE or apprentices; and when we work together, we make our changes more successful and longer-lasting.

Student Housing

Too many students are still being exploited by rising rents and poorer living conditions. Your home should be a safe, affordable and comfortable place that gives you the space you need to get on with your studies and recharge. For too many students, this is not the case. I pledge to:

Lead a nationwide lobbying campaign, to call on the Welsh Government, local Councils and the wider sector to commit to providing and ensuring good quality and affordable student accommodation and housing, no matter what you study, where you study it and how you study.

Produce accessible and engaging advice and guidance for students and Students' Unions on the issue of accommodation and housing, helping to signpost students to support and raising awareness of students' rights when it comes to housing.

Create a nationwide and student-led working group on housing, to keep real-time communication channels open and make sure the campaign is delivering for you and your members.

"As Deputy President of NUS Wales I believe we need a strong leader to take us forward next year, and Rob is definitely that person. As a former apprentice, it's important to me that the next leader of NUS Wales truly understands the importance of student voice in colleges and apprenticeships. Rob has a proven track record of listening and working with FE, and so I'm proud to be supporting him to be our next President "

